



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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LD1402141689 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Call To Execute Rushdie—In a message to Muslims broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini "sentenced to death" Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," as well as those publishers who were "aware" of the book's contents.

Zealous Muslims should "execute them quickly, wherever they find them," and "whoever is killed on this path will be regarded as a martyr."

Rafsanjani on Internal Affairs—"No one has any doubt that Ayatollah Montazeri is the undisputed successor to Imam Khomeini," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in an interview reported by Tehran radio.

There is "no rival" to Montazeri, he added, and the succession will be implemented "without any problem."

The Majlis speaker said he has not yet decided whether to be a candidate in the presidential election this year, but added "it seems as if I must be a candidate."

He also denied "biased propaganda" claims that thousands of people have been executed in Iran since last summer, stating that only "a few" executions of Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters have taken place.

Afghanistan

TASS reported that the final stage of the Soviet withdrawal was almost complete by 14 February following the departure of over 45,000 troops, including the last unit stationed in Kabul.

Soviet planes continued to deliver supplies to the capital, Moscow radio noted, and a convoy carrying wheat, rice, and fuel reached Kabul after crossing the Salang Pass.

In Pakistan, nearly 400 Afghan opposition representatives held a preparatory meeting of the shura (consultative council) 13 February, Islamabad radio reported.

The meeting in Rawalpindi resumed the following morning with all leaders of the seven-party alliance attending, but with no Shi'ite leaders from the Iran-based factions present, according to AFP.

An Iranian envoy had earlier delivered a message to the Pakistani president from his Iranian counterpart expressing regret over the disagreements among the mujahidin groups, IRNA noted.

Pakistan

After returning from the PRC, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told journalists that "not a single Pakistani soldier has gone into Afghanistan," Islamabad radio reported.

She also stressed that the recent demonstration against Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" was unjustified because the government had already taken measures against this "nasty" book and is ready to consider proposals for further action.

According to the radio, Pakistan has informed Rushdie's publishers that unless they withdraw and destroy all copies of the book, the sale of their products will be banned in Pakistan.

On Pakistan's military capability, the radio reported that "another breakthrough" has been made with the introduction of domestically made shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles and laser range finders.

Lebanon

Hostages, Terrorism—A "responsible" Hizballah source stated that Hizballah has decided to release two U.S. hostages as a "goodwill gesture," AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI reported 12 February.

According to Voice of Lebanon radio, the Iranian foreign minister disclosed during recent Amal-Hizballah negotiations in Damascus that Iran has decided at the "highest level" to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon in the near future.

However, the radio also cited information that Iranian Revolution Guards are planning to carry out a terrorist operation against a U.S. plane.

'Awn Remarks—Commenting on recent incidents in East Beirut, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn stressed that using weapons to express a political position is "totally rejected," the Voice of Lebanon reported.

'Awn said he remains "open-minded" toward any "constructive political opposition," which should voice whatever grievances it may have.

He also accused the Syrians of "escalating" the situation by preventing the return to East Beirut of soldiers on leave in other parts of the country.

PLO Affairs

A WAFA commentary carried by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio criticized Secretary of State James Baker's "threats" against the PLO and stressed the Palestinians will not stop the intifadah (uprising) and "resistance" activities until they secure guarantees of the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Accusing Baker of adopting double standards by "banning" the Palestinians from what he has "allowed" the Afghan resistance, the commentary contended that the U.S. conception of the dialogue with the PLO is "falling short."

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, stated in remarks reported by the radio that preparations are being made for a "final stage" of the intifadah in which a general strike and civil disobedience will lead to a "total paralysis" of life in the occupied territories.

He said this will take place unless the United States persuades Israel to accept direct negotiations with the PLO or to attend an international conference.

'Arafat also warned he may cancel orders prohibiting Palestinians from returning fire during clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast "Call No 34" in which the "Unified National Leadership" of the intifadah outlined a program of further action 11-25 February.

Israel

An Arab teenager was killed and two others injured when an unidentified object exploded in the Qabatiyah area, Jerusalem radio reported.

Two Arab children were also injured in a similar explosion near Nablus.

The radio noted these incidents are the latest in a series in which Arabs in the territories have been injured by flammable or explosive objects.

The defense minister has ordered an inquiry after finding out that some of the objects were flares dropped from aircraft.

Meanwhile, 11 Arabs were injured in clashes with soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to MA'ARIV.

Regarding the activities of Israeli settlers, THE JERUSALEM POST reported that two opposition Knesset members have asked the attorney general to disband a settlers' "militia" which has been carrying out "punitive, intimidatory, and retaliatory" missions.

The allegations about such a militia were denied by settlers' leaders, the POST noted.

On the settlement campaign in Gaza, Jerusalem radio disclosed that some 500 families are planning to move to the area with funding from government departments and the Jewish Agency.

Shevardnadze Tour

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Iran during the second half of February to pursue the USSR's efforts to achieve an "all-embracing and just" Middle East peace settlement, TASS announced.

In Israel, the director general of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office urged Shevardnadze to include Israel in his itinerary, asserting that "skipping over Israel does not contribute to the self-proclaimed Soviet policy of openness," THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

However, the Soviet Foreign Ministry has received no invitation for Shevardnadze to visit Israel, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Maghreb Affairs

Tripartite talks between Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi began in Tunisia 13 February, Algiers radio reported.

Bendjedid and Al-Qadhafi had earlier held bilateral discussions in Libya.

A Saharan source cited by Paris radio announced that the second scheduled meeting between Moroccan King Hassan II and Polisario leaders has been postponed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ben Ali Welcomes Al-Qadhdhafi, Bendjedid
LD1302205188 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and [Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Tunis at 2020 this evening. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was at hand to receive them.

Tripartite Talks Begin

LD1302231489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A short while ago tripartite talks began in a tete-a-tete manner between Presidents Chadli Bendjedid, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, at the Guest Palace in Al-Mersa.

The talks began following the arrival of President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi in Tunis who came from the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, where they held talks in Misratah. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat Warns of Intifadah Escalation
LD1302181588 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has asserted that the blessed intifadah [uprising] will continue until its final stage, which is now being prepared—a general strike and national civil disobedience which would lead to a total paralysis of life in the occupied territories—if the United States does not succeed in convincing Israel to accept one of two things: Direct negotiation with the PLO or attending an international conference.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added, in a press statement, that the intifadah cannot stop and that he may have to cancel the orders that prohibit Palestinians from returning fire against them during fighting with the forces of occupation.

He added: I am thinking now about abandoning such orders and giving the stoning revolutionaries a mandate to return fire following the escalation of the iron-fist policy to which our Palestinian people are being subjected inside the occupied homeland.

Abu 'Ammar pointed out three main events that have prepared the atmosphere for a political settlement: the detente between Moscow and Washington; the return of Egypt to unified Arab action; and the intifadah, which is being unanimously supported by all segments of the Palestinian people.

Italian Paper Interviews PLO's 'Arafat
PM1002145689 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian
5 Feb 89 pp 34-39

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Gianni Perrelli in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Perrelli] Sir, you have recognized Israel and pledged to avoid any form of terrorism in the struggle to liberate the occupied territories. The Israeli military authorities themselves have admitted that they have not suffered any attacks from the PLO in the past 2 months.

However, all that is not enough, your about-face has not had any effect on the Jerusalem government's intransigence.

['Arafat] Are you surprised? The truth is that Israel rejects any peace negotiations because it does not want peace: Shamir does not like the idea of an international conference, he does not like the PLO, and he does not like the Palestinian state. Shamir does not like anything. He is only capable of expressing himself in an unpleasant and threatening way.

[Perrelli] The fact is that Shamir has already put forward his plan. It makes provision for direct negotiations between Israel and unspecified Palestinian representatives, under UN auspices, but without mediation by the United Nations or the superpowers.

['Arafat] The United Nations would be reduced to an umbrella. But do you think we can accept something like that? Only a sick mind could put forward such a proposal.

[Perrelli] What contribution do you expect the United Nations to make?

['Arafat] The UN role with regard to Israel and Palestine is completely different from the role which that organization has played in various regional conflicts. The reason for this is that Israel was created by a UN resolution. It is incredible and completely ridiculous that the Israeli Government should say no to another UN resolution sanctioning the birth of Palestine.

[Perrelli] You insist on choosing Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian state. Do you really imagine that the Israelis might accept that choice? Would it not be more realistic to examine the possibility of internationalizing Jerusalem and thinking of another capital for Palestine?

['Arafat] From 1967, for more than 20 years, the whole world accused the PLO of refusing to accept UN Resolution 242, which makes provision for the recognition of Israel. Now that we have taken that step, we are asking for the Security Council resolution that calls on Israel to restore all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem, to be respected.

[Perrelli] You also say that Israel must give the new Palestinian state a corridor linking the West Bank with the Gaza Strip. Does that demand not help to make Israel even more inflexible?

[Arafat] Israel must abide by all UN decisions if it does not wish to leave the international organization.

[Perrelli] In the past few days, the PLO has also rejected the plan put forward by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin suggesting a period of limited autonomy in the territories, followed by elections to choose Palestinian representatives, and a third stage consisting of a confederation between Palestine and Jordan or Israel. In short, do you see no middle course?

[Arafat] The only solution is an international peace conference with the simultaneous intervention of a multinational force in the occupied territories to defend our people.

[Perrelli] So, there is no talk of elections.

[Arafat] I did not say that. We are prepared to accept a transitional period in which free elections could be held in the occupied territories, with PLO candidates, of course.

[Perrelli] If you could have a private meeting with Shamir, what would you say to convince him of your good faith?

[Arafat] Meet with Shamir face-to-face? That will never happen. I have too much self-respect.

[Perrelli] However, if you hope to break the deadlock with an international conference, you will have to talk to each other.

[Arafat] The respective delegations will meet in that context. The Europeans and Americans have forgotten that Interpol regards Shamir as a criminal. It has been proved that in 1948 he took part in the plot to eliminate Count Folke Bernadotte, the Swedish diplomat who was given a UN mandate to mediate in the conflict between Arabs and Israelis, in Jerusalem. I have not forgotten it.

[Perrelli] Do you think it is realistic to think of an international conference without Shamir's presence?

[Arafat] I did not say that. I do not intend to interfere in Israeli affairs. They should therefore not interfere in ours.

[Perrelli] But whereas Shamir says he will have nothing to do with Arafat, you say that you do not intend to meet him. That is a fine way of opening negotiations.

[Arafat] I repeat that I will not put forward preconditions for the Israelis. Not even as regards Shamir. I will certainly not shake his hand.

[Perrelli] Shamir still says that it is you who are the terrorist.

[Arafat] What does the word terrorist mean? George Washington was a terrorist. Giuseppe Garibaldi was a terrorist. Gandhi was a terrorist and was even imprisoned. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Samora Machel, former president of Mozambique, and all the leaders of liberation movements were terrorists. A people's independence is won through struggle, nobody has ever received it as a gift.

[Perrelli] However, highly suspect people are still operating within the Palestinian orbit—Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], Jibril, and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa]. Do you exclude them from accusations of terrorism?

[Arafat] You are talking about people who are not members of our organization. They are puppets who are used by the secret services of some Arab countries. They are Trojan horses who use Palestinian slogans to pursue different aims.

[Perrelli] One of these factions outside the PLO is blamed for the attack on the Pan Am jumbo jet that crashed in Britain last December. Is it true that your organization is investigating that incident?

[Arafat] Yes, the investigations are still in progress. They are proceeding with great difficulty because we have not received sufficient information from either the British or the Americans. I hope that they will give us more facts.

[Perrelli] Labor Party leader Shi'mon Peres has not yet despaired of reviving King Husayn as a protagonist in the negotiations to pave the way for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

[Arafat] That is a solution that Jordan has already rejected. It is too late to discuss it.

[Perrelli] However, the Labor Party seems less inflexible than Likud in taking prospects for peace into consideration.

[Arafat] Do you think so? I still think that there is no difference between the Labor Party and Likud leaders. Peres is still an ambiguous figure who is doing the exact opposite in the new coalition than what he advocated in the election campaign.

He thinks and says that he is a member of a liberal party but, in Shamir's cabinet, he is reduced to joining forces with fanatical groups who aspire to decide who is Jewish and who is not, who talk of creating new colonies, of expelling Palestinians, of creating new ghettos—the very people who had to flee the European ghettos.

It is incredible and absurd. And, as if that was not enough, they have now introduced new "rules of war" that allow Israeli soldiers to open fire on Palestinian children without orders from their own commanders. Their political philosophy is to kill and destroy. They have been doing that for 40 years. The targets are all Palestinians without distinction—Christians, Muslims, and, above all, me, their leader.

[Perrelli] Are you referring to the revelations by former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon that the Israeli authorities tried to kill you in the past?

[Arafat] Sharon is still threatening to kill the Palestinian leadership. I know how stupid he is. The Israelis seriously tried to kill me recently....

[Perrelli] Tell me about it.

[Arafat] A gang of killers, under orders from Mosad, the Israeli secret services, planned an attack on me last November. Before former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refused me a visa for the United States, it was known that I would visit New York to address the UN General Assembly. From New York, I intended to visit Cuba and then Nicaragua. They intended to kill me on one of those journeys.

[Perrelli] Were any Americans involved in the plot?

[Arafat] I understand that some of the people who initiated the Irangate scandal, with Israel's cooperation, were involved.

[Perrelli] But who decided on the operation?

[Arafat] I know that my elimination was discussed in government meetings in Jerusalem, at the same time as the repressive measures against the intifadah. I also know that the operation had a codename: "the Best Hit."

[Perrelli] Not all Israelis want you dead. There are also groups that have established contact with the PLO. Do you think that you can change Israel's psychological attitude in that way?

[Arafat] Yes, it is true that we have established contacts with small parties to the left of the Labor Party. But the climate in the country can only be changed by the masses. And from that viewpoint, it must be admitted that the situation is encouraging. A recent opinion poll showed that 54 percent of Israelis accept dialogue with the PLO, only 21 percent reject it, and 25 percent have no opinion.

[Perrelli] In the United States, the percentage of people in favor of dialogue with the PLO is even higher—around 70 percent. But it does not seem that Shamir is afraid of national or international isolation.

[Arafat] Shamir does not care about criticism as long as he feels supported by the U.S. Administration. In that sense, Ronald Reagan spoiled him, supporting his policing actions, implicitly allowing him to treat our people and children with cruelty. In 1982, in Beirut, the Israelis killed 72,000 people—Palestinians and Lebanese—with the White House's tacit agreement. That is a shameful episode.

[Perrelli] The United States has agreed to dialogue with the PLO, but it does not yet fully trust Arafat. That is demonstrated by the letter the U.S. Government sent to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak alleging that you had threatened to kill Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, who is suspected of wishing to open channels of communication with the Jerusalem government to end the intifadah.

The State Department apparently has a recording on which you are heard to say: "I will fire 10 shots into anybody who tries to end the uprising."

[Arafat] In the course of a celebration speech, I said something entirely different: "If I tried to stop the intifadah, I would be killed by the boy sitting by my side." It was a simple reply to people who attack my peace initiatives.

However, Reagan interpreted it differently. It was the last pleasure he gave us. Why does the U.S. Administration, which believes so many lies and never fails to interfere in internal Palestinian affairs, not show as much sensitivity about my people's deportation and the escalation in Israeli crimes?

[Perrelli] Can the situation change with George Bush as President?

[Arafat] His decision to continue dialogue with the PLO is a positive sign for peace. We will wait and see what he does.

[Perrelli] James Baker, the new secretary of state, has said he is prepared to give Arafat a visa for the United States, but he expressed some reservations about the Palestinian state.

[Arafat] Who asked him for a visa? I have received an invitation from some U.S. associations, but I have not accepted them. I receive hundreds of invitations. I cannot accept them all....

[Perrelli] Are you not worried by the fact that the new U.S. foreign policy staff contains many members of Henry Kissinger's clan—a man never soft on the PLO?

[Arafat] I am sure that Kissinger will try to hamper our plans, but Baker will not agree to act under his authority. He will only listen to advice given by President Bush—a man rich in international experience. This should encourage the defense of a stability that is constantly threatened.

[Perrelli] By whom?

[Arafat] Israel is planning a war scenario in southern Lebanon. The plan will probably be implemented in the spring.

[Perrelli] Do you mean that if the United Nations and the superpowers exert more pressure for a peace conference, Israel will draw international attention to another front to extricate itself from an embarrassing position?

[Arafat] Take care: I did not mention war. Israel needs a war scenario, a situation with several protagonists and involving several elements.

[Perrelli] Are you referring to a secret agreement with Syria—the only Arab state that has not yet recognized the Palestinian state?

[Arafat] I cannot say any more. Those who want to understand will understand.

[Perrelli] The Soviet Union, your traditional supporter, is moving closer to Israel. Are you worried?

[Arafat] Not at all. This is normal diplomatic dialectics.

[Perrelli] You have recently stepped up your contacts with the EEC countries. What role do you attribute to Europe in the peace process?

[Arafat] It is in Europe's interest to increase its presence in this area for basic reasons of proximity. I think it can have a decisive influence because it has friendly relations with both Israel and the Arab world.

[Perrelli] Shamir says that the Western world's interest in the Palestinian question is a passing whim. In particular, he accuses Italy of being literally infatuated with the PLO.

[Arafat] The Italian Government and people have a great democratic tradition. How could such an open country turn a blind eye to state terrorism, and to a policy of oppression, discrimination, and occupation? It is not a love affair. It is a civilized decision.

[Perrelli] What were the results of your recent visit to Italy?

[Arafat] It was a positive mission from every viewpoint. I was able to explain the Palestinian initiatives for a just and lasting peace, explaining that they are a definite strategic line and not a matter of tactical expediency. And I received full support.

[Perrelli] Meanwhile, France has raised the status of the PLO representation in Paris, whereas Italy has not raised the status of the Palestinian delegation in Rome.

[Arafat] I am sure that it will do so. There are no problems with Italy.

[Perrelli] Italian cartoonists often show Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti wearing the kaffiyah because of his firm defense of the Palestinian cause. Do you feel you have a special link with Andreotti?

[Arafat] I have many friends in Italy—De Mita, Craxi, Occhetto. Andreotti is one of them. Of course, it is natural that I should have closer relations with him because he was the first to show an interest in our problems.

[Perrelli] What conclusions did you draw from your talks with the pope at the Vatican?

[Arafat] The pope assured me that he supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, just like any other people. It was a very important meeting for me, partly because it took place on 23 December—Christmas eve—at a very important time for the whole Christian world.

[Perrelli] Have you ever tried to imagine what the first day of independence might be like, what your feelings might be?

[Arafat] That day would not only be the realization of the Palestinian people's dream but also the triumph of democracy, justice, and freedom.

[Perrelli] That is a politician's reply. What is the man's answer?

[Arafat] I cannot wait for that day to be able to say to the Palestinian children: "Do not be afraid any longer, from this moment you will live in freedom."

PLO Official on Operation in Southern Lebanon
JN1302203689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
12 Feb 89 pp 1, 17

[Excerpts] Tunis—AL-BAYAN has learned from high-level Palestinian sources that the U.S. Administration has officially informed the PLO of its deep dissatisfaction with the fedayeen operation that was carried out by the PFLP in cooperation with the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] and that led to the martyrdom of five people from the two organizations near the border strip in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad affirmed that the operation, which was carried out by the PFLP in cooperation with the PLF, took place within the border strip in defense of the Palestinian presence in the area, in which the Israeli forces every day attack and persecute Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

'Threat' by Secretary of State Baker Criticized
LD1302230989 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1702 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Commentary by WAFA political editor]

[Text] We were not aware that the dialogue with the United States, according to the U.S. Administration's perception, gives the latter the right to warn us against continuing the struggle against the Zionist enemy, who is usurping Palestinian land and practicing organized state terrorism against our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Nor did we expect the new U.S. Administration to start off with such a threat, which it voiced not merely against the PLO but also against international law, as well as the norms and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations—of which the United States is a member—norms and resolutions which give peoples struggling against occupation the right to use all means and methods.

We are thus wondering: Does the U.S. secretary of state, who voiced threats the day before yesterday against the PLO and the Palestinian people, have the right to do so under the pretext of showing concern about the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue? This dialogue is for the sake of regaining our rights and settling the Palestinian problem justly and not for the sake of orders and proscriptions. Does anyone think the PLO would, out of its concern for the dialogue, stop its struggle against occupation?

We are also wondering whether the U.S. secretary of state has the right to use two different standards in banning the Palestinian people and the PLO from what he, himself, has allowed the Afghan resistance, notwithstanding here the difference between the two, to use.

We in the PLO would like to point out that the U.S. understanding of the dialogue is seemingly falling short. The secretary of state may have the right to issue orders to his ambassadors in Tunis, but he has, however, no right to send warnings to the PLO nor to the Palestinian people.

The latter will continue, under the leadership of the PLO, the struggle and the intifadah within the framework of international laws and categorically not outside them, i.e., we will not resort to terrorism but to resistance in its fuller sense. And there is a difference between terrorism and resistance.

Terrorism is what the Zionist administration is practicing daily which the world has witnessed through the media. What the world does not see, however, is more hideous and more criminal. Resistance is the legitimate struggle which the Palestinian people have been carrying out with all its meanings and dimensions.

Finally, we have to reaffirm to the United States and the new secretary of state that we will not stop the resistance nor the intifadah unless all guarantees, which guarantee to our people a reinstatement of their legitimate rights, including the establishment of the Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem, are secured.

It would have been better for Mr Baker to condemn and warn and even threaten the Zionist entity which is killing, torturing, and practicing its daily and unlawful terrorism against our unarmed Palestinian people who are resisting with their chests and blessed stones the arsenal of Zionist weaponry and not to surprise us with a demand for which he has no right to ask.

Algeria

Chadli Bendjedid Departs on Visit to Tripoli
LD1302111889 Algiers APS in English 1037 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 13 Feb 89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid left Algiers this morning for Tripoli where [he] is due for a visit.

Tanzanian President Mwinyi Arrives on Visit
LD1102144489 Algiers APS in English 1342 GMT
11 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 11/2/89 (APS)—Mr Ndugu [Comrade] Ali Hassan Mwinyi, president of the United Republic of Tanzania declared at his arrival on Saturday in Algiers that he is very happy to be in Algeria at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid. "Algeria is a friend country of the Tanzanian Government and people". "As you know it, a change has come at the level of the political leadership of our country. I come to reaffirm Tanzania's attachment to the friendship links which unite our two countries and tell to our friends that this change does not at all modify these links," the Tanzanian president added.

This visit will certainly open new prospects of cooperation between the two countries, the Tanzanian head of state concluded.

Meets With Bendjedid, Departs
LD1302145188 Algiers APS in Arabic 1200 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 13 Feb (APS)—A last round of talks was held at the "Jenan El Mithak" residence this morning between President Chadli Bendjedid and Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi. The Tanzanian president and his wife left the Houari Boumedienne International Airport at the end of his 3-day official visit to our country.

Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi was seen off by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, his wife, S. Rabah Bitat, speaker of the National People's Assembly, Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah, Foreign Minister Boualem Besaïch, and Larbi Belkheir, director of the Cabinet at the Presidency of the Republic.

The Tanzanian president's visit to Algeria was crowned by a joint statement which said that at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi paid an official visit to Algeria. During his visit, President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and the delegation accompanying him toured a number of industrial, agricultural, and social projects. The Tanzanian president also had private meetings with President Chadli Bendjedid and other meetings which were extended to include the two countries' delegations.

The statement also indicated that the talks were held in a fraternal atmosphere characterized by mutual understanding. These talks dealt with all fields of cooperation and ways to reinforce and bolster this cooperation. The two sides noted with satisfaction the quality of the exemplary relations between Algeria and Tanzania.

Egypt

Fundamentalist Killed in Shootout With Police
NC1402091889 Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 14 (AFP)—A member of an underground Islamic group accused of responsibility in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat was killed Monday by police, according to a press report here Tuesday.

Majid Muhammad al-'Utafyi, 30, was killed during a shootout in central Cairo as he was about to be arrested by police, AL-WAFD newspaper reported.

The newspaper of the opposition Neo-Wafd Party said that Mr. al-'Utafyi had been on the run for several years but had recently returned to Cairo to link up with members of the outlawed Al-Jihad group.

The group of Moslem fundamentalists had been accused of the assassination in 1981 of President Anwar al-Sadat.

'Concern' Expressed Over Arab Economic Grouping
JN1402125889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
12 Feb 89 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Cairo, Amman, AL-ITTIHAD, news agencies—Informed political sources in Cairo stressed to AL-ITTIHAD yesterday that the Israeli Government has expressed concern over the establishment of the quadripartite Arab economic grouping, and that this is its first reaction to this issue.

The sources added that the Israeli Government considered the grouping a nucleus of a large-scale military grouping that will include most of the Arab states, and expressed concern over the existence of coordination among Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq on the one hand, and the Gulf states on the other.

The sources pointed out that the United States conveyed the Israeli stand to Egypt when a U.S. State Department official received the Egyptian ambassador in Washington a few days ago, and told him that Tel Aviv has asked Washington to intervene quickly to obtain a frank commitment from the states of the grouping to the effect that these states avoid the establishment of military cooperation that would basically be aimed at Israeli targets and installations.

The sources said that the Egyptian ambassador told the U.S. official that through this grouping, Egypt seeks only to promote economic cooperation among Arab states, stressing that there is no thought of destroying or threatening any Israeli target.

The sources revealed that Israel has tried to instigate some European states against the concept of Arab grouping, claiming that this concept is aimed at undermining the European states' interests in the Arab region.

The sources added that Israel's ambassadors to France, Britain, Italy, and Norway have presented a report in which they described the Arab grouping as an Arab tool to disrupt peace efforts, saying that the true objective of this grouping is to coordinate and develop military capabilities among these states.

The sources said that the Israeli ambassadors have stressed that Tel Aviv will choose an appropriate reply to this grouping to protect its national security against Arab threats. They also urged European states to take necessary measures to contain the expected consequences in this regard. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of EEC 'Troika' Delegation

Delegation Arrives 12 Feb

NC1202085089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—The three-member EEC delegation tasked with discussing the peace process in the Middle East arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to last a few hours, during which it will meet with President Husni Mubarak.

The delegation comprises Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, Spain's foreign minister, whose country is the current EEC chairman; Roland Dumas, French foreign affairs minister, whose country will chair the EEC on 1 June 1989; and Karolos Papoulis, Greek foreign minister, whose country was the former EEC chairman.

The delegation was received at Cairo International Airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Spanish Minister Views Visit

NC1202105389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—The EEC delegation tasked with discussing peace efforts in the Middle East was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the presidential office this morning. The delegation comprises the foreign ministers of Spain, France, and Greece. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

The Spanish foreign minister stressed the importance of the talks that the EEC tripartite committee, "the troika," held today with President Mubarak on the Middle East situation.

In a statement he made following the meeting, the Spanish foreign minister praised Egypt's role at the international level, stressing that it is an important and leading country in the Arab world. He added that President Mubarak emphasized at the meeting the European countries' important role in giving impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

He described the talks the committee had with President Mubarak as very important, but added that he cannot divulge more on what transpired at the meeting.

The Spanish foreign minister noted the importance of giving an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East at the present time. He added: Naturally we agree that an international peace conference should be convened.

He said: This is our first visit to Cairo within the framework of the "troika" committee, which comprises the foreign ministers of France, Greece, and Spain. He added that each of the ministers had visited Egypt in the past, but not as a representative of the "troika" committee. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Sees Committee

NC1202132489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held talks today with the EC "troika" delegation on recent Middle East developments and the European role in promoting the peace process.

The European committee, which comprises the Greek, Spanish, and French foreign ministers, received a detailed briefing from Dr 'Abd al-Majid on Egypt's stand on the peace issue and preparations for holding an international conference, which is seen as an effective and objective means of resolving the conflict in the region. [passage omitted]

Committee Ends Visit, Departs

NC1202155289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—The EEC's tripartite committee delegation left Cairo for Damascus this afternoon following a brief visit of several hours, during which the delegation met with President Husni Mubarak. The tripartite committee is entrusted with discussing peace in the Middle East.

The delegation also met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Dr 'Abd al-Majid saw the delegation off at the airport.

Reportage on Visit of Tanzanian President Mwinyi

Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC1302160489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and his wife arrived in Cairo this evening for a 4-day visit to Egypt.

President Husni Mubarak and his wife recieved the Tanzanian President and his delegation at the airport. President Mubarak then escorted his distinguished guest to Al-Qubbah Palace, where he will stay during his visit to Egypt.

Makes Dinner Speech

NC1302204889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this evening in honor of the Tanzanian president and Mrs Mwinyi and the members of their delegation.

President Mubarak delivered a speech in which he welcomed Egypt's distinguished guest and lauded the development in the relations between Egypt and Tanzania in all spheres. Following is the text of his speech:

Your Excellency and My Brother and Dear Friend President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Mrs Mwinyi, Brothers, Dear Friends: We greet you from the bottom of our hearts, and we welcome you to the land of Egypt, which enjoys the strongest ties with your country.

These ties have been determined by a common history, a common culture, a common spiritual affiliation, a common geographical location within the framework of the immortal Nile Basin, and a common interest in establishing security and stability throughout the glorious African Continent and in achieving development and progress in the interest of its struggling peoples, who suffered for so many centuries from colonialism, exploitation, and persecution.

I do not exaggerate when I say that Your Excellency embodies this special relationship between our two countries and peoples. Through your connection to the noble African culture and your sublime spiritual values, you further the prestige of man and inspire him to devote his attention to the greatest mission: achieving peace, progress, and amity among all nations and peoples.

Dear brother, you have contributed greatly to a strengthening of relations between our two fraternal countries in the various stages of national action. In the service of your cherished country, you have built bridges of cooperation and solidarity between the various official and nonofficial organizations.

You have shown much interest in bolstering cooperation in the cultural and ideological domains, domains that greatly affect the life of individuals and groups and form a common identity of objectives and hopes.

Therefore, it is only natural that our stands are identical on all the regional and international problems facing us. I mention here in particular the principal African issues; specifically, the struggle against racism and exploitation in South Africa, the battle being waged for the sake of gaining Namibia's independence after the signing of the December 1988 agreement, and the work to settle the issue of African debts, which threaten to strangle all the efforts toward development throughout the greater part of the continent.

We share the same concept of how to resolve once and for all the existing problems in the Middle East, foremost of which are the Palestinian issue, the problem of ending the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the Lebanese problem.

We are also working to achieve the same aims within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement. The most important of these aims is an activation of the movement's role at the international level, enabling it to play a prominent role in setting up a new world system that will achieve greater stability and justice.

Dear friends, we look with admiration and respect at the efforts of our brothers in Tanzania in construction and economic reform, and we hope that these efforts will be successful.

We are sincerely and determinedly seeking to develop cooperation between our two countries in all political, economic, and cultural fields to the mutual benefit of our two peoples. I have no doubt that the talks we will be holding during this visit will give a tangible push in that direction.

Allow me, dear brothers and sisters, to ask you to stand in greeting President and Mrs Ali Mwinyi, all the sons of the fraternal Tanzanian people, and the eternal relations between our two peoples and countries.

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi then made a speech in response to President Husni Mubarak's speech. Following is the text:

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies, and gentlemen: First allow me to express my profound gratitude to the president for the invitation which he extended to me to visit your great country, which is rich in history and culture. Your invitation was a cause of great satisfaction for me because I knew I was going to be among friends. [passage omitted]

We hold our friendship with Egypt in high esteem, not merely because it rests on the essential principles of equality, sovereignty, and mutual respect, but also, and

more importantly, because the Egyptian and Tanzanian people have similar goals and aspirations with regard to both domestic and international affairs.

Concerning domestic affairs, our two countries are committed to bolstering human equality and social justice among our people. We are determined to promote economic and social prosperity for our people through the correct exploitation of our national resources.

We admit, however, that our efforts and resources are not enough to confront the terrible challenges of economic survival and development, particularly following long years of colonial hegemony and exploitation.

For this reason, we welcome assistance from friends and international organizations, provided that this assistance does not harm our liberty and sovereignty. For instance, we are currently implementing a 3-year program for economic reform with the assistance of creditor countries and the IMF. I am happy to say that our efforts for development in Tanzania are also receiving assistance from other developing states.

Egypt's desire to share its great experience and immense achievements with other developing countries has been a particular source of inspiration for us in Tanzania.

For example, our bilateral cooperation with Egypt has helped ease our labor shortage. Egypt has not only offered us experts in all fields, but it has also helped train our people in its institutes, and we are very grateful for this assistance. The cooperation between Egypt and Tanzania exists in other spheres as well, such as trade, agriculture, culture, and tourism.

I have learned that the joint cooperation committee has met here in Cairo and has adopted useful recommendations to increase cooperation between the two countries. Let us try to implement these recommendations for our mutual benefit.

I also hope that my current visit will be an opportunity to find new ways to expand bilateral cooperation. We must expand the scope of cooperation, not merely between our two countries but among all Third World countries, with the aim of attaining collective self-reliance. Tanzania greatly appreciates Egypt's role in strengthening cooperation among developing countries.

We must give south-south cooperation the attention it deserves, particularly since the international economic circumstances through which we are passing are not suitable for the economic development of developing countries. This cooperation will not only strengthen our potential for promoting our people's social and economic comfort, but will also bolster our struggle to establish a new international economic order.

Mr President, Egypt and Tanzania hold converging views on other important international issues. Both of us are committed to the principles of freedom and justice for all mankind, and this commitment has been the motive behind our giving continuous support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for the sake of their rights to self-determination and an independent state.

In this regard, Tanzania has announced recognition of the recently proclaimed State of Palestine. We are hopeful that all the parties concerned will respond to the positive signs made by the PLO, because such responses would pave the way to convening an international Middle East peace conference at an early date.

Tanzania fully recognizes the importance of Egypt's role in achieving lasting peace in the Middle East. Tanzania is also deeply satisfied with Egypt's continuous support for the sake of the complete liberation of the African Continent. Under your wise and committed leadership, Egypt has continued to give political and material support to the liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia.

The ceaseless racist persecution carried out by the regime in Pretoria against the black majority in South Africa and this same regime's attempts to shake the stability of the neighboring independent African states compel us to intensify our support for the struggle against the regime of racial segregation and against the illegitimate occupation of Namibia.

The U.S.-brokered agreement signed by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa in New York has revived our hopes concerning the independence of Namibia and the establishment of peace in Angola. Nevertheless, we fully realize that the fulfillment of these hopes depends on the sincerity of South Africa.

Angola and Cuba have actually started to implement the provisions of the agreement, and we call on South Africa to honor its commitments as stipulated in the agreement, so that the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence may begin as soon as possible.

Our government is very much concerned with the move being conducted by the permanent members of the Security Council to amend Resolution 435 and thus reduce the military presence of the UN's temporary support group in Namibia.

This step would weaken the UN's ability to guarantee free and impartial elections in the country by giving South Africa a chance to interfere in the elections process. We hope that the permanent Security Council members will respond to our call not to amend the resolution, which enjoys the collective support of the international community.

Mr President, I am confident that our common aspirations for freedom, justice, and world peace can be attained through the joint cooperation among the peace-loving countries in the world. Tanzania will continue to play an effective role for the sake of achieving these aspirations and strengthening the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between Egypt and Tanzania.

Attends Summit Talks

NC1402103889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian-Tanzanian summit talks began this morning with a separate meeting between President Husni Mubarak and President Ali Hassan Mwinyi followed by an expanded session chaired by them. Members of the Egyptian and Tanzanian delegations joined the talks following the separate Mubarak-Mwinyi meeting.

The Tanzanian president began his first official visit to Egypt yesterday to consult with President Mubarak over several important regional and African issues. These included the Middle East issue, the establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq, the Lebanese problem, the situation in South Africa, Namibia's independence, Africa's foreign debts, and bilateral ties. Mwinyi's visit to Egypt is expected to last 4 days.

Libya

Algerian President Arrives, Makes Speech

LD1302154989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the [Algerian] Republic and the FLN secretary general, arrived this afternoon in the municipality of the Gulf of Defiance (Sidra). [passage omitted]

President Chadli Bendjedid made the following statement to JANA: I am very happy to visit the Jamahiriyah. This visit falls within the framework of visits, meetings and consultations between myself and brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi on bilateral issues. It also falls within the scope of Maghreb action.

All these contacts aim at giving a new impetus to bilateral relations and at exchanging views and ideas on the issues of the edification of our Maghreb. On behalf of the Algerian people I would like to express Algeria's solidarity through thick and thin with the Jamahiriyah, [word indistinct] and its people. My presence here symbolizes the strong solidarity we feel with the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

President Bendjedid also said: This visit is an opportunity for us to exchange views on our problems. We are working hard to achieve Arab unity, particularly the edification of our Maghreb.

Meets With Al-Qadhafi

LD1302155889 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] This afternoon in the municipality of the Gulf of Defiance [Sidra] a working session took place between the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid.

This session was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's committee; Boualem Bessaieh, Algerian foreign minister; Larbi Belkheir, director of President Chadli Bendjedid's office; the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab friendship office in Algeria; and the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Holds 'Closed Meeting'

LD1302185489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Misratah, 13 Al-Nawwar [February], JANA—This evening a closed meeting was held between the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN in fraternal Algeria.

Al-Qadhafi Receives Sahel Region Envoys

LD1002163389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1533 GMT
10 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received the ambassadors of Sudan, Chad, and Niger to the Great Jamahiriyah.

He requested that they convey to their governments the concept of the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries and the contents of the proposal on the comprehensive unity of the Arab countries and African states adjoining the Sahara.

The brother leader affirmed that, according to Jamahiriyah ideology, unity must not be on a racial basis but must be complementary regardless of race, religion, or color, so that it includes Mali, Niger, Chad, and Sudan.

The brother leader told these ambassadors about the talks which took place in Sidra with Moussa Traore, the president of Mali and current OAU chairman.

The brother leader said that President Moussa Traore supported unity in this form and that Mali is enthusiastic about it; therefore he did not ask the Malian ambassador to come along with the other ambassadors.

The brother leader pointed out that the Libyan delegation will raise this project at the Maghreb summit—scheduled to convene in the middle of this month in Marrakech.

Morocco

Polisario Postpones Second Meeting With Hassan
LD1302195388 Paris Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] We have just heard that the second meeting, scheduled for this week in Marrakech between the Polisario Front and King Hassan II of Morocco, has been postponed. The news was broken by the Saharan representative in Paris. [passage omitted]

Hassan Receives Message of Thanks From Bendjedid
LD1002140189 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT
10 Feb 89

[Text] Rabat, Feb 10 (MAP)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid expressed "deep satisfaction at the spirit of sincere brotherhood and total understanding having marked" the talks he had with King Hassan II during his three day "friendship and working visit" to Morocco.

In a message of thanks he addressed the sovereign at the end of his visit to the Kingdom, President Bendjedid said these talks enabled to clarify the vision as to prospects of bilateral cooperation as well as to the responsibility we must shoulder to consolidate the common action on the Maghreban and Arab scene.

"We are convinced that this visit has enabled us to prepare the appropriate climate to materialize what our people have always aspired to through the consolidation of brotherhood and neighbourliness. We are also convinced that this will be materialized in favour of the various projects that will be launched in the context of complementarity and cohesion and to the benefit of mutual progress," the presidential message pointed out.

Hassan Mediation of Belgium-Zaire Conflict Hailed
LD1102151289 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT
11 Feb 89

[Text] Brussels, Feb 11 (MAP)—Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said he was trustful and optimistic as to the success of King Hassan II's mediation in the Belgian-Zaire conflict.

In an interview Friday with MAP bureau in Brussels, Tindemans said the sovereign's mediation proposition has been "very welcomed" and "immediately accepted" by his country.

"We could not refuse such an initiative coming from a sovereign for whom we have a great deal of admiration and respect", he said.

"If anybody could lay a role in this conflict and contribute to a reconciliation between the two sides, it is indeed His Majesty King Hassan II", Tindemans added.

King Hassan II had separately received last Sunday in Ifrane, northern Morocco, President Mobutu Sese Seko and new Belgian Ambassador to Morocco Guillaume Metten as part of the sovereign's mediation in the conflict between the two countries.

President Mobutu Sese Seko was then on a private visit to the Kingdom.

Tindemans told MAP he was "extremely happy" when he learned that President Sese Seko was going to visit Morocco to meet with King Hassan II. He said he was ready to head for Morocco if King Hassan wished it and that Belgium "will do all it can so the sovereign's mediation effort succeeds."

At another level, Tindemans said he had "rejoiced at the recent meeting in Morocco between King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

He said he hoped "with all his heart" that an agreement be reached between the two countries which, he added, "can no more afford to continue wasting their financial and human resources in a conflict that they are obviously trying to settle now."

The Belgian foreign minister said the creation of a Maghreban economic union was an "excellent idea". He said it will permit the Maghreb, "this very special region of the world and of Africa, so close to Europe," to realize its development by constituting an economic force capable of defending its interests in the face of other markets.

On Moroccan-Belgian relations, Tindemans said they were "good" and covered many areas mainly cultural, commercial, technical and military.

He said military cooperation, mainly training and exercises by Belgian pilots and mounted police in Morocco, was "exemplary and perfect".

On the Middle East question, the Belgian foreign minister said only an international peace conference could bring forth a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

"Let us not miss this possibility and let us do all we can so this conference will be held," he said.

He concluded saying Belgium is doing only what is within its means for the Middle East question and Lebanon and that "the intelligent people in the Mediterranean, in Lebanon or elsewhere will understand this attitude."

Filali Postpones Scheduled Visit to Syria
LD1002224389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation says that the visit to Syria by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and

cooperation, scheduled for 10-11 February at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart, has been postponed by mutual agreement in light of Filali's current preoccupations. The visit will take place later.

Sudan

Cairo Reportedly To Host Al-Mahdi-Garang Meeting
JN1302205489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
10 Feb 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] It is expected that Cairo will soon host a meeting between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudanese prime minister, and John Garang, leader of the rebel forces in southern Sudan, to discuss ending the civil war in the south. Intensive contacts are currently being held among Cairo, Khartoum, and Addis Ababa to pave the way for the meeting.

Egypt had asked Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to exert pressure on Garang to agree to hold a meeting with Al-Mahdi and stop all military operations in southern Sudan.

AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak will discuss with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi during his expected visit to Cairo in March the preparations for the Al-Mahdi-Garang meeting. Al-Mahdi has recently asserted his readiness to meet with Garang.

AL-WAFD has also learned that Ethiopia and Uganda proposed that they host the expected meeting. Garang has frequently set as a condition to end the southern problem that all military agreements between Sudan and other states, led by Egypt, be canceled.

Al-Mahdi Reportedly Ready for 1-Month Cease-Fire
AB1302151589 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 13 (AFP)—The Ummah Party of Sudan's Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi is ready to order a unilateral one-month cease-fire as a way of testing the good intentions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the party's deputy leader (Nasr Eddine al-Mahdi) said Monday in an interview in the AL-KHARTOUM newspaper.

The aim was to verify the credibility of the SPLA and establish whether "its demands and objectives spring from a truly patriotic spirit. If this is the case, the SPLA will have no excuse to refuse the proposed cease-fire," said Mr. Mahdi, who is a cousin of the premier.

He said that Ummah's former government coalition partner, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), was negotiating again with the rebels in Ethiopia on Ummah's behalf to set up a meeting between the SPLA and a government delegation.

The DUP and the SPLA reached a peace agreement in November, but the premier's party and its other coalition partner, the Fundamentalist National Islamic Front, refused to endorse it, leading the DUP to quit the coalition and go formally into opposition in parliament in December.

But Ummah and the DUP are continuing to work together for a peaceful settlement to the war in the south, Mr. (Nasr Eddine al-Mahdi) said.

Al-Mahdi Pledges To Free 'Every Inch' of Country
EA1102060889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We now present a report from Kosti.

[Unidentified reporter] The prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has emphasized the need to increase storage capacity to accommodate strategic reserves of sorghum. He said this stems from the governments wish to provide food security. He pointed out that the wheat situation constituted a breach in the wall of food security.

[Announcer] He made these remarks at a political rally held in Liberty Square, Kosti, which he is visiting as part of his tour of production sites and harvest areas. [passage omitted]

He went on to say that the war in the south was imposed on us from outside. He said that the government was committed to liberating every inch of territory seized by the rebels. He stressed that the Armed Forces were capable of doing this and that the government was committed to providing them with the necessary equipment, manpower, and moral support.

The prime minister said that plans existed for people's defense, civil defense, and compulsory recruitment, as ways of defending the homeland. His excellency called on parties and trade unions to carry out their obligations toward the homeland.

Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi renewed the government's commitment to peace. He identified three possible reasons inducing the rebels to fight: one is a feeling of being oppressed, and if this is the case, then there is nothing to quarrel about, for everyone will be given his rights.

But there may be other aims, and hence rebellion is exploited by another state with the intention of imposing its wishes on Sudan. Under such circumstances there will be no peace, because Sudan will not surrender in the interests of a foreign state. Armed force may be used to impose a specific idea, but if it is, it cannot succeed, because ideas cannot be imposed by force.

He said the government intended to draw up a plan clearly explaining to Sudanese and world opinion the position of the rebellion. His excellency added:

[Begin Al-Mahdi recording] We are facing a conspiracy, which is partly military in the sense that the rebels operating against us do not do so from within Sudanese territory, but from foreign territories, and they are supplied from foreign territories. Indeed, the areas in which they are effective are border areas.

Both Nasir and Kapoeta are in this category. They are clearly and manifestly border areas, and they are moved into from foreign positions. Many quarters are party to this conspiracy, and they include Israel. Accordingly, a military conspiracy against Sudan exists. It is an exploitative conspiracy.

There are people who know, who realize, that they are in a position in which they cannot attain power, because they cannot get popular support. They therefore try to exploit us [words indistinct] to transform (?their) demands into politically exploitable demands. It is accordingly a conspiracy of this type.

There is a foreign conspiracy. People come and tell Sudan: You are provoking them, you are using food as a weapon of political action. People come and tell Sudan, people who support the rebellion: If you do not do this or that, we will suspend economic aid. All this proves the existence of a conspiracy against Sudan.

Moreover, whoever conspires against the unity of the internal front, who shatters the Sudanese internal front, is assisting this foreign rebellion, supporting the enemy and weakening Sudan. All these elements share a single role. They might appear to be divergent, but they aim ultimately to weaken the will of the Sudanese, to force the Sudanese leadership into surrender, to make Sudan bow down.

We say unequivocally that, God willing, we are prepared for steadfastness—not a temporary steadfastness, but one which is enriched and girded by yearning, roots, and aspirations springing from our historical roots and implicit in our basic principles. Accordingly, we are prepared to stand steadfast against all obstacles, because we stand in the presence of right. Right overcomes, it is not overcome. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Al-Qadhdhafi, Bendjedid To Arrive 'This Evening'
LD1302183488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] TAP has learned that Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid are expected to arrive in Tunis this evening at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Their visit is within the context of dialogues held between the leaders of the region's countries prior to convening the Marrakech summit.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had a telephone conversation with Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, today at his residence in Misratah in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah. He also spoke with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Ben Ali Addresses Central Committee on Party Work
LD1102205289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Democratic Constitutional Rally Central Committee at the Republican Palace in Carthage on 11 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother and sister members of the Central Committee, gentlemen:

I welcome you to the first session of the Central Committee since the salvation conference held 6 months ago. This session will evaluate the work of the party's permanent structures with the aim of consolidating and developing the party work.

We were eager to see the Rally become a working party and this was embodied in the visits the Central Committee and Political Bureau members paid to the regions. These visits created a particular dynamism in the country's public life.

The responsibility of the Rally member has become a direct responsibility between himself and the citizen, through concentration on following up, consolidating, and achieving its goals so the Rally will become a spokesman for the broad masses who support it.

Brothers and sisters, we have an appointment with destiny, the consecration of democracy. We are taking a new and important step toward consolidating democracy by holding elections which we want to be free and fair. We will work for this so that every Tunisian feels he has a free choice and a real right to citizenship.

A special and distinct responsibility rests on the shoulders of our party to secure the success of the democratic path in view of the fact that it shoulders the burdens of ruling in this phase, in particular, and especially because of its struggle and heritage. This party chose the constitution as a cornerstone and its members were martyred for the sake of a Tunisian parliament.

All other parties are invited to contribute effectively to ensure the success of this process because we have before us a pioneering project of civilization which we should build with constant determination and to which we should be devoted with far-sightedness and a high spirit of patriotism.

This project requires from every Tunisian, male and female, a vigilant awareness of the need to feel responsible. We do not consider democracy to be a conflict between factions in which the political parties resort to outbidding one another because our society cannot enter such labyrinths and bear the brunt of the ensuing problems.

We began by following the democratic path and entrenching it, as you have seen, within our party. Therefore, we consulted our grass roots for the best criteria by which to select our candidates for the legislative elections. We have entrusted the grass roots level of society with the task of choosing the people they see best suited to represent them. We also tried to unite our ranks and speak with one voice.

I would like to remind you in this respect that the Chamber of Deputies is not a parliament representing the regions like the regional council, nor is it like the economic and social council. The Chamber represents the Tunisian people in all sections and regions.

The Chamber of Deputies is one of the three branches of government and we are determined to strengthen it and consolidate its status to enable it to carry out its national role under all appropriate circumstances. [applause]

I have tried to make cooperation between all parties civilized and I have called on the Rally to set an example in this by virtue of its special responsibilities—historical and contemporary—and its role and position in national life.

It must act in accordance with the standing which Tunisia enjoys today and out of our concern to preserve the spirit of national entente, which reached its height after 7 November [when Ben Ali assumed the presidency] and was confirmed with the signing of the National Charter.

I must do this in order to make the elections an exercise of the right to a free democratic choice and a respectable competition unless the parties which signed the charter decide, after taking into account this very crucial phase, to opt for a coalition which would entrench national entente.

Brothers and sisters, I am proud that you have nominated me for the presidency [applause and singing] and I thank you and all those who wanted and supported my candidacy based on the premise of the 7 November principles and the common denominators defined by the National Charter.

I hope that we will all succeed in utilizing the huge resources of our party, our people in general, and the national forces to carry out the civic goals approved for Tunisia by all its sons, out of love and loyalty to the homeland.

Long live Tunisia, a homeland for all of us which we care for and build with love and forgiveness, a democratic republic of which our youth are proud.

Say: Work and God will see your work, and his messenger and the believers. God has spoken the truth. [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Bahrain

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives on Visit 12 Feb
*JN1202124289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 12 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister and inspector general of the Armed Forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Manama this morning on an official visit of several days to Bahrain.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, led those who welcomed Prince Sultan upon arrival.

Prince Sultan is accompanied by Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Eastern Province.

Meets With Prime Minister

*JN1202145489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 12 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, received here today His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who is accompanied by Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Eastern Province.

His highness the prime minister gave a luncheon banquet to honor Prince Sultan and his delegation. The banquet was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, and a number of senior Bahraini officials.

Holds Talks With Amir

*JN1202203689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Excerpt] Manama, 12 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, received here this evening His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general of the Armed Forces, who was accompanied by Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Eastern Province.

During the meeting, Prince Sultan conveyed to his highness the Bahraini amir the greetings of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. They also reviewed relations between the two countries, developments in the region, and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Leaves Manama

*JN1202204089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1905 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 12 Feb (WAKH)—Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general of the Armed Forces, left Manama this evening by King Fahd Bridge after an official visit to the State of Bahrain lasting several hours.

He was seen off by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; and a number of senior Bahraini officials.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd Visit to Iraq Termed 'Success'

*JN1402140789 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
13 Feb 89 p 6*

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Shaykh Sa'd's Visit Highly Successful"]

[Text] One of the most apparent indications of the success of the visit of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to Baghdad is perhaps evident from his statement:

"We have made positive steps towards solving the issue of the international borders between the two countries and have agreed to continue following-up the process already initiated and settle the issue."

The statements of Shaykh Sa'd are proof enough of the success of the visit, if the object of the visit was the border issue itself.

However, the visit was more comprehensive and tackled a wide spectrum of subjects and other issues. The other agreements achieved during this visit reflected how deep-rooted the relations are between Iraq and Kuwait. These relations emanated from the desires and wishes of the leaders themselves.

The Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister has been true and frank in his statements. His comments on the result of the visit was based on the positive response he received in Baghdad on his opinions and proposals and future vision of just how relations between Kuwait and Iraq should be.

The statements of HH the Crown Prince and the contents of his cables to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council; Izzat Ibrahim, came as a clear reply to all those who think or imagine that it is possible to interpret things contrary to what they actually are.

It must be remembered that it is of no use to blow into torn bags. It must also be remembered that Kuwait and Iraq are brothers and partners in the same destiny. We have nothing to do, but wait, as time will shortly confirm the truth in HH the Crown Prince's statement in addition to other statements issued either from the Kuwaiti or the Iraqi side about the visit. The coming days will surely confirm the credibility of these statements.

Thus, what can we add to prove that the visit of Shaykh Sa'd to Iraq is successful?

Yes, we have the words of President Saddam Husayn himself to the editors-in-chief of the Kuwaiti newspapers. President Saddam said that Shaykh Sa'd's visit was the most successful every made by leaders of Iraq and Kuwait. He added that things that were said in general were discussed clearly and frankly.

Needless to say, the visit was more than successful although the fruits and results of which may not appear today. But people will later find that it is truly the most successful visit which aimed at establishing balanced and equal relations in the region.

Oil Cooperation Talks With USSR Open 13 Feb
LD1302141189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1051 GMT 13 Feb 89

[By Shamil Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 13 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti-Soviet official talks opened here Monday [13 February] seeking the enhancement and diversification of cooperation between the two countries in the oil field.

The Kuwaiti side was chaired by Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi, while Soviet Minister of Oil Industry Vasily Dinkov headed his country's side.

Soviet Deputy Minister of Construction of Oil and Gas Production facilities S.K. Arakelyan told KUNA before the talks began that his country wishes to boost Kuwaiti-Soviet technical cooperation in the fields of oil and gas.

Arakelyan said "that the two sides will examine the possibility of executing joint oil schemes on Soviet soil, with the participation of affiliate companies of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation."

He noted that Moscow wants to benefit from the broad, Kuwaiti expertise in oil exploration and drilling inside Soviet lands.

The Soviet official said that his country will soon execute some oil projects in Kuwait, applying Soviet technology in using water pressure in oil production.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Oil Industry in the Soviet Union now has rights to strike trade deals in the

international market and others to establish joint companies with foreign partners of those backing the position of Soviet companies on the oil market.

Oman

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati Continues Visit

Meets With Deputy Premier
JN1302133789 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] In his office this morning, His Highness Fahd ibn Mahmud Al-Bu-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his delegation, presently visiting the country. Attending were His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Ali ibn 'Abdallah, state minister for foreign affairs; and the Iranian ambassador to Oman.

They talked about bilateral relations and how to advance them in various areas. They also discussed current regional and international developments and efforts being made to promote permanent regional stability as well as other issues of mutual interest.

His excellency the Iranian foreign minister has praised his talks with His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah and noted the effect of these talks on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Holds Talks With Sultan Qabus
JN1302181989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Muscat, 13 Feb (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman received here today Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, the Iranian ambassador accredited to Oman, and the delegation accompanying the Iranian foreign minister.

The Iranian minister, who arrived in Muscat yesterday, had held numerous meetings with ranking Omani officials on with bilateral cooperation on a number of joint issues.

Further on Talks With Sultan
LD1302183888 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with Omani head of state Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id in Muscat today announced Iran's readiness to expand ties with that country.

Velayati also briefed Qabus on the Islamic Republic's stances at the Iran-Iraq peace talks for enforcement of the U.N. Resolution 598, as well as the current developments in Afghanistan and Lebanon.

Qabus in reply termed mutual ties as "excellent" and said Muscat was keen for further promotion of ties with Tehran. He also lauded the Islamic Republic's efforts to foster unity among Afghan mujahidin and to end conflicts between Muslim groups in Lebanon.

Velayati who arrived in Muscat Sunday, held separate meetings with his Omani counterpart Yusuf ibn al-Alawi ibn 'Abdallah and Deputy Prime Minister Sa'id Fahd ibn Mahmud al-Sa'id earlier today.

Ends Talks; Departs 13 Feb

JN1302183589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Muscat, 13 Feb (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the accompanying delegation left Muscat this evening after a 2-day official visit of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Iranian minister and his delegation were seen off by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of ranking officials in the Foreign Ministry.

Qatar

Shaykh Khalifah Leaves for Saudi Arabia 13 Feb
JN1302130089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, left Doha for the Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia on a visit, during which, he will meet with Saudi monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks

JN1402062489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2006 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 13 Feb (WAKH)—A Soviet economic and trade delegation, headed by N. Yemakhonov, chief of the Trade and Economic Relations with Asian Countries Administration at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade, arrived in Doha this evening on an official 3-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of states in the region.

During the visit, the delegation will hold talks aimed at bolstering economic and trade cooperation between the USSR and Qatar.

The head of the delegation said that the visit—the first of its kind to be made by a Soviet economic delegation to Qatar—is aimed at reviewing and exchanging viewpoints on the suitable means to establish economic and trade relations between the two countries and means to improve them.

In a statement to QNA following his arrival, the head of the delegation expressed the delegation members' hope that the visit will produce fruitful and effective results that will give a good incentive to economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Qatari Amir 13 Feb
LD1302182188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Al-Dammam, 13.2.1989, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, have this evening held a meeting at Al-'Aziziyah Palace. [passage omitted]

Qatari Ruler Departs

LD1402163188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1332 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Al-Dhahran, 14 Feb (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, ruler of Qatar, left the the Eastern Province at 1500 this afternoon.

He was seen off at Al-Dhahran International Airport by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation, and inspector general of the Armed Forces.

Foreign Minister, Egyptian Counterpart Hold Talks
LD1402114589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0955 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh 14 Feb (SPA)—Saudi-Egyptian talks began here today at the Foreign Ministry. The Saudi side was led by Foreign Minister HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal while the Egyptian side was led by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. Muhammad Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. [passage omitted]

The two sides reviewed the development of the situation in the Arab region and bilateral relations.

Reportage on Visit by UK's William Waldgrave

Arrives 12 Feb

JN1302083589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—William Waldgrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad at a late hour last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The British minister will discuss with Iraqi officials ways to reinforce bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab region and the Middle East.

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1302120589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here today William Waldgrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs in charge of Middle East affairs, and his delegation.

They discussed bilateral relations, ways to promote them, and recent developments in the UN-sponsored negotiations between Iraq and Iran aimed at reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and achieving security and stability in the region.

The two sides also discussed the most important issues in the Arab arena, namely the Palestine question and the need to respond to the PLO's constructive initiatives and support the Palestinian Arab people's right to establish their free and independent state.

The meeting was attended by Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the First International Desk at the Ministry, and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Industry Minister

JN1302194589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, industry and military industrialization minister, and William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, discussed here today ways to promote cooperation between the two countries in the industrial field.

The Iraqi minister asserted that Iraq is determined to establish an integrated, modern base for strategic industries. He said this year will witness the implementation of projects in various industrial fields, particularly iron, petrochemicals, aluminum, sulphur, and nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers as well as electricity, plain glass, and cars in addition to the projects that will complement these industries.

The British minister of state stressed that both his government and British companies wish to participate in the implementation of industrial projects in Iraq.

Sees Trade Minister

JN1302201189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation.

They discussed formulas to contribute to the benefits from the credit facilities agreed upon in the meetings of the seventh session of the joint Iraqi-British committee in Baghdad last November.

Delivers Message to President

JN1402141089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The message was delivered to Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, during his reception today of William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs.

The message emphasizes Britain's eagerness and desire to find new prospects to promote relations with Iraq and establish broad and fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

Mr Ramadan stressed that Iraq, within the framework of its clear policy, is seeking to establish relations of friendship and cooperation, based on mutual respect and equality, with the countries of the world.

The first deputy prime minister reviewed issues related to the future and status of the Iraqi economy. He asserted that international economic and industrial institutions, out of their strong belief in the firm foundations of the Iraqi economy, are competing to contribute to Iraq's economic plans and to increase trade with it.

Mr Ramadan stressed that under President Saddam Husayn, Iraq, which achieved peace through its great victories, wants a genuine and comprehensive peace so that permanent stability can prevail in the region. He pointed out that Iran accepted Security Council Resolution No 598 after it was convinced that its aggressive expansionist policy was impossible to achieve.

The British official expressed his country's confidence in Iraq and the firmness of its economy. He stressed the British institutions' desire to expand cooperation with Iraqi institutions in all fields.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and the ambassadors of Iraq and Britain in London and Baghdad.

Visits Oil Minister

JN1402143389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim met with William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation today.

During the meeting—attended by the ambassadors of the two countries in Baghdad and London—the possibility of expanding the contribution of British firms and establishments to Iraq's oil projects was discussed.

Reportage on Visit by CSSR Deputy Premier

Confers With Counterpart

JN1102130089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT
11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, has met with Karel Julius, CSSR deputy premier and minister of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry.

They discussed horizons of cooperation between the two states in development in the fields of the mechanical, tractor, and drip-irrigation equipment industries. An agreement was reached to discuss the details of cooperation in a meeting to be held by the two countries' representatives tomorrow.

Karel Julius arrived in Baghdad last night heading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. The delegation comprises the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Metallurgy, Engineering, and Electrotechnical Industry; the deputy governor of the National Bank; and a number of officials.

Meets With Trade Minister

JN1102184089 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT
11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 11, INA—Iraqi Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih discussed with Karel Julius, Czechoslovak Deputy Premier and Minister of Mechanical and Electronics Industries, means of increasing the volume of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries in light of the agreements concluded between them.

The minister also discussed with the Czechoslovak official, during a meeting with him and his accompanying delegation here today, the subject of using the credit facilities provided by the agreements concluded between the two countries.

The Czechoslovak deputy premier confirmed the Czechoslovak officials desire to enhance the trade and economic cooperation with Iraq according to a firm program.

Attends 'Official Talks'

JN1202173289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—The official talks between Iraq and the CSSR began today. The two sides are discussing bilateral economic and industrial relations.

The talks—headed on the Iraqi side by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, and on the CSSR side by Karel Julius, deputy premier and minister of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry—reviewed the progress of bilateral economic and industrial relations, especially in the areas of the mechanical, engineering, and glass industries.

Several specialized committees to discuss frameworks of future cooperation emerged from the talks. The committees will also submit their recommendations to a specialized committee to prepare a protocol for cooperation between the two countries which will be signed by the two countries later this week.

The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Iraqi-CSSR joint committee for economic, scientific, technical, and trade cooperation in Baghdad next April.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization under secretary; representatives of the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Finance, and the Iraqi Central Bank; and a number of specialists.

They were attended on the CSSR side by the deputy minister of foreign trade; the deputy minister of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry; the deputy governor of the National Bank; and the CSSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Ramadan

JN1202183689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1458 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met today with Karel Julius, CSSR deputy premier and minister of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry.

The CSSR official conveyed a message to Ramadan from the CSSR prime minister emphasizing his country's eagerness to expand cooperation with Iraq. The various fields of cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed, with both sides expressing great satisfaction with its progress.

Ramadan praised the CSSR's support for Iraq during the war and the role played by Czechoslovak institutions in executing Iraq's development projects.

Julius conveyed the Czechoslovak leadership's congratulations for the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and its appreciation of Iraq's steadfastness in the face of Iranian aggression which was crowned by the great victory and the maintenance of Iraq's sovereignty. He also praised the constant Iraqi intent to achieve a just and comprehensive peace with Iran.

Meanwhile, Ramadan today received Jaroslav Prokopec, health minister of the Czech Socialist Republic, and his delegation.

Bilateral relations in the health, scientific, and technical fields were discussed during the meeting.

Gives Message to President

*JN1202194289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from CSSR President Gustav Husak on relations between the two friendly countries and on spheres of cooperation between them in various areas.

The message was conveyed to President Saddam Husayn by Karel Julius, CSSR deputy premier and minister of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry, who was received by President Saddam Husayn this evening.

The meeting was attended by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, and the CSSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Rabin Criticizes Schifter Report, Defends IDF
TA1302182889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Speech by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the Knesset in response to five no-confidence motions submitted 13 February by HADASH, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality; the Progressive List for Peace; Tehiya; Moledet; and Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles, broadcast in progress]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Knesset Members: The defect in the State Department's report on the territories is that it deals only with one aspect of the problem, the IDF's operations against the violence, and hardly refers to... [changes thought] although in the opening passage of the report there is insufficient and vague reference to the reasons why the IDF takes action vis-a-vis the violence in the first place.

But after all, if there were no violence, there would be no need to activate the IDF. This violence is not intended to defend human rights or serve humanitarian causes. The only purpose of this violence is political, with far-reaching goals. I have often said these objectives endanger the future and security of the State of Israel.

Anyone who fails to comprehend that these are the goals of the long-standing war waged by the Arab countries against the establishment and existence of the state, except that this time this struggle is taking a different shape, fails to acknowledge that this is the problem we are facing.

If the inhabitants of the territories desire a solution, let them find it with us around the negotiating table. If, however, they want to pursue violence, violence will be responded to with force. They must understand this message.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 13 February reports that "in an initial reaction to the Schifter report," Defense Minister Rabin noted that he "regrets that the report ignored the question of who initiated and who is responsible for the violence in the territories."

Rabin told the Knesset he "does not know any other country in the world that has demonstrated such openness by permitting Schifter and his team to see all they wanted," and pointed out "there is a reason for this openness." In a recorded passage of his speech, Rabin says: "We have nothing to hide because we are not ashamed of what we are doing."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 1730 GMT on 13 February reports that "by a large majority, the Knesset a short while ago defeated five no-confidence motions submitted by the opposition parties against the background of the death of Albert Jerasi and the publication of the Schifter report."

Arens Terms Relations With U.S. 'Excellent'
TA1302170789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Israel's relations with the United States are as good today as they have ever been, said Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning.

Arens attacked the Schifter report, which according to him, does not offer any method to deal with violence in the territories. Our correspondent in the Knesset Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today mentioned press reports saying that Israeli-U.S. relations have cooled down to a certain degree. Upon leaving the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, Arens referred to the conversation between the Israeli ambassador to Washington and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

[Arens] Not everything you read in the papers is true. To the best of my knowledge, the conversation was very good.

[Unidentified correspondent] How would you describe relations with the United States?

[Arens] They are excellent. I refer all of you to the speech by U.S. Vice President Quayle which, I believe, will show you... [changes thought] Gentlemen, I must rush now.

[Gilhar] In the committee, Arens leveled criticism at the Schifter report, which according to him, included facts well known from media reports. The Schifter report, he said, does not tell how to combat violence without incurring casualties. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 13 February adds: "Foreign Minister Arens says it is a mistake to think the intifadah [uprising] can be overcome only through political means. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the foreign minister told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that anyone adhering to this theory is in fact saying Israel should agree to all the political demands of the organizers of the uprising in the territories."]

Leaves for UK

TA1402065089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami and Arye Golan, prior to Arens' departure on official visit to the UK—live]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Minister Arens, would you not like to host your Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze in Jerusalem?

[Arens] That is up to him. We will be happy to welcome and talk to him here when he does decide to visit us.

[Ben-'Ami] Did you invite him to come here when you met in Paris?

[Arens] When we met in Paris we discussed the possibility of seeing each other again somewhere, perhaps even in this region, but we did not conclude anything.

[Golan] In any event, you will probably not see each other in the course of Shevardnadze's current tour of the Middle East, because you are leaving for London this morning.

During your stay in Britain you will confer with Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Howe at a time when Europe is expecting a new Israeli peace initiative. Do you plan to fulfill these expectations during your upcoming visit to London?

[Arens] As you know, a government initiative must be based on discussions held by the government. When such an initiative is formulated, the man who will present it will be the prime minister.

[Ben-'Ami] If that is the case, does such a plan not exist yet? Could you tell us whether you are carrying anything with you to London?

[Arens] I am definitely carrying luggage. We have a great deal to discuss both with Mrs Thatcher and the British foreign secretary.

[Golan] Does your luggage contain new ideas or positions? Not too long ago you said at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that one should not stick to all the old positions.

[Arens] This is an opportunity for us to present our assessment of the situation and the future as we envisage it. I assume we will hear from the British what their position is. I do not know whether they will come up with new ideas or not, but they will certainly apprise us of their points of view.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you foresee any role for Western Europe in the expected political move in our region?

[Arens] I think it is obvious to all that progress toward peace in the region must and can be based only on direct negotiations between the sides. This does not mean that leaders of other countries cannot be of assistance. If they have good ideas and goodwill, they may very well be able to make a contribution.

At present, there is a very long list of countries willing to help. I assume Britain is quite close to the top of the list, due to its past connections with the region and because of Mrs Thatcher's special position.

[Golan] There is no question, however, that Washington heads the list, and you will also be visiting there. In the meantime, we read in THE NEW YORK TIMES the remarks by Congressman David Obey and Senator Leahy saying Israel has aroused resentment in the United States due to what has been happening in the territories and warning that U.S. aid might be affected in the future because of this issue.

The United States has not complied with our requests to stop its dialogue with the PLO. Are you not anxious about an erosion in our relations with America, Minister Arens?

[Arens] This is not the first time we have heard warnings that aid might be cut and that the nature of the relations between the United States and Israel might change. In practice, however, when you look at the history of these relations, you notice that aid has been constantly increasing and relations have been growing stronger.

[Ben-'Ami] Nevertheless, Washington would seem to be the main objective. Why should you not first go to Washington to confer with Secretary Baker, rather than go to London? Could you perhaps explain the uncertainty over the date of your meeting with Secretary Baker?

[Arens] I do not think there is any contradiction; rather, there is a difference between Washington and London. Mrs Thatcher has been the British prime minister for many years and she is one of the most veteran prime ministers in the world at present.

[Ben-'Ami] She no longer needs to learn the ropes.

[Arens] It is not that she does not need to learn, but that everything in Britain is organized, whereas in the United States there is a new administration which is currently getting organized. There is no need to worry; we will definitely meet and talk with administration officials.

As you know, I have many friends there from the time I was ambassador. The stories in the paper alleging that U.S. officials do not want to meet with us are nothing but stories. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Urges Shevardnadze To Make Visit
TA1402085689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 14 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Oscar Franklin]

[Excerpts] The prime minister's top aide last night invited Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to visit Jerusalem during his Middle East tour, which is scheduled to begin this Friday.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, said he was issuing the call to the Soviet official in the spirit of glasnost and perestroika.

"I cannot see any reason why he shouldn't include Israel in his tour plans," Ben-Aharon told THE JERUSALEM POST. "If the Soviet Union wants to have a fresh look at the Middle East, according to the principals of glasnost and perestroika, there is nothing like a first hand look and direct talks with our leaders. Skipping over Israel does not contribute to the self-proclaimed Soviet policy of openness." [passage omitted]

Peres's diplomatic adviser, Nimrod Novik, suggested that Shevardnadze dramatize the positive developments in Moscow's Middle East stance by a visit to Jerusalem.

Novik told THE JERUSALEM POST last night: "I hope that the tour of the Arab world is not confined to improving the Soviet position in the Arab world, but is also being made to signal increased interest in contributing to peace in our region. If that is the case, it is regrettable that he has not chosen to visit the other party to the dispute, Israel."

Observers in Jerusalem said last night that the Shevardnadze tour pointed clearly to the different priorities that the two superpowers assign to the Middle East. It was ironic, they said, that even before moderate Arab leaders have had the chance to meet with key figures from the Bush administration to coordinate positions, they would have an opportunity to speak with a senior Soviet diplomat.

Arab leaders asked to meet with President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker at much earlier dates than those eventually agreed.

On the Israeli side, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens asked to meet with Baker this month, but was told the administration needed time for preparations and the meeting was scheduled for March 13, the observers noted. This was another sign that the administration did not intend to invest much effort or prestige here.

The sources added that Shevardnadze's visits to pro-western countries such as Jordan and Egypt had been made possible by the rapprochement between the two

superpowers—and by the dissatisfaction of Jordan's King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at what they see as an American indifference toward the area's problems.

'Almost Certain' Shevardnadze Will Not Visit
TA1402085989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Moscow has not received any invitation for Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to visit Israel during his upcoming tour of the Middle East and it is almost certain that he will not visit this country or confer with Israeli leaders. This was stated by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Moscow in a talk with our correspondent Gid'on Remez.

Spokesman Boris Sevost'yanov pointed out that Shevardnadze's tour was not designed to hold contacts with all the parties to the conflict, contacts which should be held at an international conference.

He reiterated that his country demands that the PLO participate in such a conference. According to him, Israel's objection to a conference and to talks with the Palestinians precludes progress toward the resumption of its relations with the Soviet Union.

Sevost'yanov nevertheless pointed out his country does not object to Israel in principle and has been developing its relations with it in other spheres, particularly in the cultural field.

1 Killed, 2 Injured by 'Unidentified Object'
TA1302184089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] An Arab youth was killed and two others injured today at Qabatiyah in Samaria, when an unidentified object exploded. Later, two children from Tayasir near Nablus were hurt in a similar incident. Shlomo Berger reports:

Qabatiyah residents say the explosion occurred after the three youths entered an Army training area. The Army spokesman says they found a suspicious object, apparently a dud shell or a flare, and when they handled it, it exploded. One teenager was killed and the other two injured.

The IDF says it has no knowledge of any shooting or jets dropping anything in the area that might have caused the accident. The Army has also not ruled out that the youths may have been preparing a homemade bomb.

A curfew was imposed on Qabatiyah to prevent unrest after the death of the youth, 16-year-old Amin Muhammad Abu Rubh.

Later, a 4-year-old girl and her 10-year-old brother were hurt in a similar incident at the village of Tayasir near Nablus. Family members say they suddenly heard an explosion as the children were pasturing goats not far from home.

They said they did not see any soldiers or Israelis in the area, but did see a military plane flying overhead. The Army spokesman says the IDF has no information about the incident, but are checking the report.

Today's incidents are the latest in a series in which Arabs in the territories have been injured by flammable or explosive objects. Defense Minister Rabin has ordered an inquiry after it was determined that some of the objects were flares dropped from planes.

Update on Incidents, Curfews in Territories
TA1402091289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
14 Feb 89 pp A1, 2

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There were only a few incidents in the West Bank yesterday. In the Balatah refugee camp, three youths were wounded by plastic bullets and in the Bethlehem District village of Husan four residents sustained injuries. In Nablus a youth was shot in the leg. The IDF closed off the area around the village of 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma', near Nablus, and conducted an initiated operation.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 14 February, in a report on pages 1 and 12 by Joel Greenberg, adds that "in Nablus, a leaflet directed at Israelis and signed by the 'Strike Committees—State of Palestine' warned that violence by troops would be met with violence, but also called for Jewish-Arab cooperation to 'end the cycle of violence and recognize Palestinian rights to self-determination'."]

Three youths were wounded yesterday in Rafah. One of them, Ahmad al-Yazuri, 13, was rushed to Sheba Medical Center with a critical face injury from a rubber bullet. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 14 February reports that "early this morning, the IDF clamped a curfew on large parts of the refugee camp in Rafah in the wake of yesterday's violent disturbances." The report goes on to say that the "employment exchange in Khan Yunus was set on fire last night. The police believe the arson resulted from nationalist motives. The fire destroyed files, furniture, and other office equipment."]

Firebomb Hurlled at IDF Patrol in Nablus
TA1402113089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at IDF soldiers patrolling the Nablus casbah this morning. No one was hurt. The IDF launched searches to find the perpetrators of the act.

The IDF investigation into yesterday's incident that left one Qabatiyah resident dead and two others injured when an unidentified object exploded while they were playing with it indicates they were hurt by an old shell that lay in a clearly marked IDF training zone.

Official military sources have told our correspondent that the IDF attributes great significance to the investigation of the two incidents last night in which one youth was killed and another four wounded while handling unidentified objects. To recap, one incident occurred in Qabatiyah and the other in Tayasir.

Jamming of Al-Quds Radio Reportedly Stopped
NC1402121689 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 14 (AFP)—Israel has recently stopped jamming the programmes of a Palestinian radio station after it began broadcasting commentaries hostile to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, listeners in the West Bank and analysts said Tuesday.

Al-Quds radio, launched in 1987, was systematically jammed when it declared support for a Palestinian uprising that erupted in December of that year in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But regional analysts said the jamming stopped a few days ago following a campaign against the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In its recent political commentaries, the radio, managed by the Syrian-based anti-'Arafat Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has referred to the "defeatist" and "treacherous" policies adopted by Mr. 'Arafat.

The PLO chief explicitly recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism last December, one month after the Palestine National Council or parliament-in-exile announced the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Al-Quds, Arabic for Jerusalem, transmits from an unspecified location outside Israel proper and the occupied territories.

Reportage on Visit of EC Delegation to Amman

Arrives on Visit 11 Feb

JN1102174289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] An EC delegation led by Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, Spanish foreign minister and chairman of the EC foreign ministers council, arrived in Amman this afternoon on an official 2-day visit to Jordan. The delegation, whose visit to the region is assigned by the EC, includes Ronald Dumas, French foreign minister; Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister; and (Apple Matotis), European commissioner for dialogue between the north and south and the Mediterranean Basin states.

The delegation's visit is part of a tour which will include, in addition to Jordan, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Receiving the delegation at the airport were Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Spanish and French ambassadors to Jordan; the EEC representative in Amman; and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Spanish Minister on Mission

JN1102214889 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Francisco Fernandez [Ordonez, Spanish foreign minister], in an interview with our reporter Samar Dahmash, said that the European Community would do its best to promote peace chances in the Middle East.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez-Ordonez] Well, I don't used to explain the audiences for the head of a states, but in any case what is important is that we have the honor, the great honor, to be received by his majesty the king. And we have a long discussion of all the question of the Middle East.

You know that the king has a long experience and an important understanding of this issue if and for us has been highly interesting on the discussion. [sentence as heard] The discussion have been all the questions related to the Middle East.

[Dahmash] Have you come to the region with a new initiative to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Fernandez-Ordonez] No, we came, we come here with no one new initiative. We think that there are enough initiatives, and the problem is to be able to push forward the initiatives with which the large majority of the international community agrees.

And then the role of Europe is to try to help to push forward the process to the international conference of peace. That's the role of the community, and this is what we are trying to do.

[Dahmash] All the Arabs and Palestinians have expressed their readiness to go through the peace process, but Israel did not. Can you as a European country do something to change this situation?

[Fernandez-Ordonez] We are doing our best. We are trying to make all—or to use all—the possibilities to try to help do that because we think really that this is the only way to find out a solution. And I think that all of countries should help us to try to find this way. But of course the European Community are doing the best and this is the reason why we are here, because we are trying to use all our possibilities.

[Dahmash] But are you thinking of exerting any sort of pressure on Israel?

[Fernandez-Ordonez] Well, the European Parliament has rejected some agreements with Israel. It has postponed some agreements. But I think that at the end the history will move along and the voice of the reason is able to change the minds of the people. And I am hopeful that something is changing in Israel.

The last polls show that 50 percent of the population, for example, agrees to have some negotiation, direct negotiation with the PLO, for example. This is new. This means that the people can change, the country can change, the government can change, and in this sense I am a little bit optimistic.

[Dahmash] Are you considering contacting the new American administration?

[Fernandez-Ordonez] Of course. This is one of our purpose we think is very important.

[Dahmash] As a European committee, what can you do to ease the suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied lands?

[Fernandez-Ordonez] We are trying first to help directly with economic measures. And second, we are trying to, we are acting vis-a-vis the Israeli Government, trying to avoid all the acts against the international law and the human rights. [end recording]

EC Delegation Departs

JN1202095889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
0915 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Amman, 12 Feb (PETRA)—The EC delegation left Amman this morning for Cairo after a 2-day official visit to Jordan during which they met with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of high-ranking officials.

The delegation included Spanish foreign minister and head of the EC foreign ministers council, and the foreign ministers of France and Greece.

The delegation was seen off by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the ambassadors of Spain, France, and Greece; the EEC representative in Amman; and a number of ranking officials in the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

European Stand on Middle East Called 'Positive'
JN1202120589 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Feb 89, p 1, 12

[Editorial: "The EC Delegation Indicates Great Satisfaction With the Jordanian Stand"]

[Text] The great satisfaction shown by the EC delegation comprising the Spanish, French, and Greek foreign ministers, during their news conference in Amman yesterday was a result of their clear and objective information on the Jordanian viewpoint and regarding the Arab cause from all its aspects after His Majesty King Husayn presented his ideas and concepts on the European role in this cause to the visiting delegation.

The EC foreign ministers clearly indicated a number of reasons which prompted European interest in the Middle East cause and started intense European political activity to push the peace efforts forward in order to convene the international conference.

They also clarified that the motivation for and initiation of this role was the result of important developments in the region. The most important of these developments were Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], the most recent PNC resolutions in Algiers, and the PLO's acceptance of the requirements for peace based on its recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of violence.

The EC delegation felt the honest Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab trends in general toward establishing peace. This existing policy is based on achieving a peaceful,

just, and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East region through an international peace conference with full powers with the participation of the five big power members of the Security Council and attended by all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

This trend, which has become clear, entrenched, and supported by world countries—apart from Israel—does not need new initiatives. However, to realize its goals of a just and permanent peace, it must be supported, so that the region will become peaceful through the Palestinian people's realization of their legitimate rights, including the right to establish an independent state on their national soil.

The new and intense European action derives importance since it is based on a European political, economic, strategic, and historical interest in the region and since it is working toward liberating the U.S. stand which, to a great degree, is still affected by Israeli concepts and understanding.

The Europeans have started to realize that there will be no peace in the Middle East region except through a comprehensive settlement reached in an international conference. They feel that it is their responsibility to persuade their ally, the United States, of this realization through contact and information exchange, and believe that dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO has established a new situation.

Jordan believes that the European stand on the Middle East conflict is a positive one which could play a major role in pushing the peace process forward and in persuading the United States to exert the same effort exerted by the Europeans to change the Israeli stand rejecting peace and continuing the policy of oppression, terrorism and aggression.

Jordan, under the leadership of King Husayn, adheres to its basic principles regarding the conflict, of standing by the Palestinian people, and supporting the PLO since it is the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people]. Jordan sees that its stand will be understood clearly by the EC which has, in turn, indicated satisfaction over the nature and clarity of this stand.

Hizballah Reportedly To Release 2 U.S. Hostages
NC1402091589 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Feb 89 p 50

[From "The Last Moment" column]

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has told AL-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AL-DUWALI that Hizballah has decided to release two American hostages as a goodwill gesture and that the party is in the process of releasing them.

Terry Anderson Held
NC1302200589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Party sources in Al-Biq'a have cited Syrian intelligence officers as stating that U.S. hostage Terry Anderson is now being held at a Hizballah military position at the foot of the mountain situated between Al-Nabi Shit and Janta in Ba'labakk district. Entry into this position is allowed only by prior permission from Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli or 'Abbas Musawi.

The sources pointed out that the person responsible for this position is Nazih al-Hajj Hasan from Shmistar. Hasan is assisted by Husayn Shakar from Al-Nabi Shit.

Iran Reportedly Wants Release of Hostages 'Soon'
NC1302124989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] According to Amal Movement sources, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who participated in the meetings at the Syrian Ministry in Damascus for the purpose of ending the Amal-Hizballah war, told the conferees that the Iranian Government has made a decision at the highest level providing for the release of the hostages in Lebanon in stages and in the near future.

The Amal sources added that Iran wants to mend relations with Western states.

Libya Said To Send Terrorist 'Instructions'
NC1302181289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] According to information received by the embassy of a major Western power, the Lebanese Revolutionary Committees [Al-Lijan al-Thawriyah al-Lubnaniyah] offices in Al-Biq'a have received secret instructions from Libya, asking them to send personnel specialized in terrorism to Tripoli.

According to the information, these personnel are likely to be assigned to carry out terrorist operations against U.S. European installations for large amounts of money in retaliation for the U.S. warplanes' downing of two Libyan military aircraft.

Lebanese Forces Adviser Views Syrian Aims
NC1302151489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1345 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Dr Tawfiq al-Hindi, political adviser to the Lebanese Forces' commander, has asserted that by insisting that reform take place before an election or coincide with it, or that an agreement on reform should coincide with the election, Syria aims at depicting the crisis in Lebanon as an inter-Lebanese crisis, not one about the Syrian occupation.

Syria's second aim, he said, is to cause the Arab committee to stray from its sound course, which includes a presidential election as a preliminary and necessary step toward resolving the crisis. The third goal, Al-Hindi added, is to frustrate and prompt the Arab committee to relinquish its efforts and entrust Syria with the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Hindi called for the adoption of Arab and international recommendations concerning the need for the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese armies until regional and international conditions are ripe for these forces' withdrawal. [as heard]

Kuwaiti Minister Contacts Syrians About Roadblocks
NC1302173089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1545 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has cited an Arab diplomatic source as saying that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister and head of the Arab Committee, has held urgent contacts with Syrian officials in Damascus concerning the removal of roadblocks.

The roadblocks had been set up by Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib to prevent the military from crossing to the eastern area and joining their units. Al-Sabah expressed surprise at the silence of former Chamber of Deputies speaker Al-Husayni and former Prime Minister Al-Huss over these measures.

'Awn Accuses Syrians of 'Escalating' Situation
NC1402072289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Only a few days before the scheduled meetings [of Lebanese spiritual leaders] in Kuwait, there are signs that the Syrians are escalating the situation. Syrian [as heard] roadblocks have prevented Lebanese military personnel from going to the eastern areas. It should be recalled that the Arab League committee on Lebanon has asked all parties concerned to refrain from embarking on any step that might lead to political tension.

Commenting on this issue, Prime Minister General 'Awn has accused Syria of preparing for an escalation in the country. Speaking to army officers yesterday, Gen 'Awn

said the matter pertains to a serious decision in terms of both meaning and timing. It could be interpreted as Syria's beginning a series of new escalatory measures.

It is worth noting that since Saturday, hundreds of Lebanese military men who had been on leave in the north, in Al-Biq'a, and in West Beirut, have been prevented from returning to East Beirut.

On Recent 'Security Incidents'

*NC1402075089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 14 Feb 89*

[Text] Commenting on the recent incidents in the eastern area, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn declared that we reject any military confrontation with any Lebanese party, particularly if this confrontation is out of place. Our people have had enough bloody conflicts, which destroy and squander past achievements each day, he added.

Gen 'Awn called for refraining from using the language of weapons, particularly when it is unwarranted and out of place. Using weapons to express a political position, he added, is totally rejected on our part. We have always had an open mind, and still do, on tolerating some of the security incidents, provided they do not exceed what we can possibly stand.

We will remain open-minded toward any constructive political opposition, provided things are called what they really are with clarity, objectivity, and impartiality. We welcome the opposition and call on it to voice whatever grievances it may have against our positions.

Gen 'Awn called for solidarity and steadfastness, which could guarantee the utmost efficacy, not only within the security institutions but also for the entire homeland.

Eastern Areas Still Tense; Ja'ja' Absence Noted

*NC1302125089 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Text] Tension continues to prevail in the eastern areas in the wake of the latest round in the power struggle between the Lebanese Forces and the Army. An armed presence is manifesting itself in the Al-Ashrafiyah area, where the Lebanese Forces are operating military patrols. The Lebanese Forces have installed a DShK emplacement on the Alexander Hotel roof; this has scared the public and created an atmosphere of tension and caution.

The Lebanese Forces are said to have erected at night roadblocks in areas under their control, while a military alert is still in force within the barracks and military centers.

In another development, circles in the eastern area have noticed the absence of Samir Ja'ja' from his leadership activities these days. The same circles also note a state of discontent within the Lebanese Forces because of certain of its dominant officials who rely on family allegiances.

These circles explained the absence of Ja'ja' as an attempt to soothe the situation for fear of splits. However, other informed sources say he is absent on a tour to Israel, Egypt, and Iraq. The sources say that his deputy, Karim Paqradi, is the one who led the confrontation with the Army. These sources say that the Lebanese Forces' villainy is explained by the presence of Paqradi at the head of the command, and note that Paqradi's stand toward the Army, specifically toward General 'Awn, is well-known.

Army Takes 'Precautionary' Step in Beirut

*NC1302125489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Statement by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate issued in Beirut on 13 February]

[Text] Because of the Lebanese Forces' recent attacks against some Army elements, the Army Command has implemented a temporary, precautionary measure to safeguard the lives and dignity of Army personnel by preventing them from travelling to the areas of the clashes.

The Command calls on officials and the private information media not to exploit this precautionary measure and not to portray it in any way other than for what it is intended. This is for the sake of truth and to safeguard the Army's interest during the delicate circumstances through which the country is passing.

Army Police Kidnap 4 Lebanese Forces Members

*NC1402174989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 14 Feb 89*

[Text] There was a security incident between the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army military police in the Monte Verde area at 1845 today. The incident occurred when four Lebanese Forces personnel were kidnapped by the Lebanese Army military police in the area.

The security authorities are working to contain the incident.

Birri on Amal-Hizballah Agreement Implementation

*NC1302165489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister and Amal Movement leader, has emphasized that the Damascus agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah will be implemented and that the towns of Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar should remain free of both Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen to prevent any friction and to preserve the two towns as well as the agreement.

Speaking to a delegation representing Jba' which visited him this morning, Amal Movement Leader Birri affirmed that there will be no slackening in the implementation of the agreement. Meanwhile, as a result of the security incident in the town of Rshayf during which a Hizballah member was killed, Minister Birri told the delegation that the Amal Movement leadership has handed the culprit over to Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud (chief Syrian observer) out of its eagerness to implement the agreement and prevent any violation.

Minister Birri pointed out that committees have been formed between the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council and engineers from the Southern Council to conduct an on-site survey of the damage caused to the town [not further identified] as a result of the recent clashes.

Minister Nabih Birri today telephoned Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the security and intelligence organ in the Syrian Arab forces operating in Lebanon. He also telephoned Brig Gen 'Ali Hammud, chief of the Syrian observers team, regarding the implementation of the security plan in Beirut's southern suburb.

The Syrian Arab forces are scheduled to begin in the next few hours the implementation of security measures in the suburb, in accordance with the agreement reached during the Amal-Hizballah coordination committee meetings within the context of the recent Damascus agreement.

The security measures include the expansion of the area in which the Syrian Arab forces will deploy in the inner quarters and main roads in the suburb, the elimination of an armed presence, and the closure of Amal Movement and Hizballah military centers, especially in the areas of tension between Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah.

Meanwhile, an [Amal-Hizballah] coordination subcommittee in the South has closed a Hizballah branch in the town of 'Ayn Bu Siwar in Iqlim Al-Tuffah during a tour of the town.

Amal Movement security sources have stated that the Amal leadership has instructed its gunmen not to roam about carrying arms or wearing military uniforms, and to remove any armed presence in the suburb, in preparation for the implementation of the agreed measures.

Shams al-Din on Amal-Hizballah Accord, Hostages
NC1402101489 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
13 Feb 89 pp 13-17

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, by Zayn Hammud—place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammud] Do you consider the Damascus agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah just a truce, or does it signal the beginning of a reconciliation process for organizing the relationship between the two parties? Also, how long do you think it will take before we can judge whether the agreement is successful or not?

[Shams al-Din] We consider this agreement an accord, not just a truce. We also believe it has turned a page in the chapter of fighting between the two sides. It is a practical agreement that could be put into effect if both parties have the goodwill to do so. As for how long it will take before we judge it, I cannot say. [passage omitted]

[Hammud] Regarding the foreign hostages in Lebanon, could we say that the agreement will concern this issue?

[Shams al-Din] The subject of the hostages was never raised during all the rounds of the Damascus negotiations. I therefore was very surprised when [Syrian Foreign Minister] Brother Faruq al-Shar' informed me of the flood of foreign correspondents who had come to Damascus interested in that issue. When the correspondents learned that this subject was not mentioned in the talks, they all left.

I cannot give you an answer on this issue because I have no information. I cannot tell whether or not the agreement will affect the fate of the hostages positively. It seems to me that the agreement means nothing with respect to the hostage issue.

[Hammud] Regarding the hostage issue itself, do you have new specific facts or information on this matter?

[Shams al-Din] Several months ago, after Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, the world thought that the hostages' ordeal was about to end. I was asked about it then and said that if the hostage issue has not become more complicated, at least no element has been introduced to ease or solve it. I say the same thing today.

My view of the hostage issue is that it is still the same and subject to the same factors as before. Perhaps new complications have been added. How long has it been since Iran accepted the UN resolution?

[Hammud] About 16 months. But aren't there new prospects for solving this issue?

[Shams al-Din] Not really. From time to time we devote as much attention as we can to the issue on a humanitarian basis; I have nothing to do with it from the political point of view. I think that this issue is so ugly and hideous that all those who can end it must do so. It has become a blemish on our situation.

The fact that we are facing oppression from imperialism and Israel does not mean that we must oppress individuals. Our oppression of individuals under any slogan is unjustifiable. Regrettably, it has become clear that the hostage issue has been used for incorrect and unacceptable objectives from the political and moral standpoint. [passage omitted]

Implementation of Suburb Security Plan Postponed
NC1302123389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Regarding the security plan for the southern suburb which was to be implemented this morning, a source in the joint Amal-Hizballah coordination committee explained to our radio that this plan has been postponed until the Syrian forces complete the necessary security arrangements. The source believes that the implementation process most likely will begin within 24 hours.

Source on Deadlock in Plan
NC1302180689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The implementation of the security plan in the southern suburb has been postponed. Contacts have intensified on more than one level between the Syrian occupation army and Amal and Hizballah officials in a bid to resolve deadlocked problems. Explaining these problems, security sources said that Hizballah refuses to evacuate its military barracks and surrender its arms.

The sources added that Hizballah will not accept the return of the Amal Movement to all parts of the suburb, especially after the security incidents in the South. These incidents occurred in the town of (Rkay), where a Hizballah member was killed, as well as in Shabriha and Al-Numayriyah. Hizballah insists on linking the issue of the suburb to the developments in the South.

Hizballah Group Goes to Syria To Settle 'Problems'
NC1402162089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Sources of the Amal-Hizballah coordination committee have emphasized that consultations are under way with the Syrian Arab forces to set a date for the implementation of security measures in Beirut's southern suburb within the context of the Damascus agreement.

The sources affirmed that Amal and Hizballah are prepared for such an implementation as soon as Syria decides in this regard.

The sources pointed out that the committee is still dealing with some problems in the South, which are impeding the implementation of some of the agreement's clauses, including the clause related to the suburb.

Meanwhile, Hizballah sources have stated that a Hizballah delegation will visit Damascus to discuss with the officials concerned the way to deal with the existing problems. Husayn Khalil and Muhammad Hunaysh, the two Hizballah representatives in the coordination committee, left yesterday for Al-Biq'a, from where they will accompany a number of Hizballah leaders to Damascus.

Soviet Envoy Expecting 'Imminent Israeli Attack'
NC1402114089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has met with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha. They discussed the latest developments in the Lebanese arena.

Ambassador Kolotusha stated that Speaker al-Husayni assessed the meetings with the Arab committee in Tunis and presented his concept of a solution to the Lebanese problem.

The Soviet ambassador believes there is a gradual relaxation at the regional level with regard to both Gulf and Middle East issues. He noted that this relaxation will reflect positively on the Lebanese situation.

Kolotusha expects an imminent Israeli attack against Lebanon, and he pointed out that he is following the matter closely.

Iranians Accused of Bribing Rival Groups
NC1302204689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Shi'ite sources close to Amal Movement have accused the Iranians of giving financial assistance in the form of monthly installments to the Progressive Socialist Party, the Communist Party, and the pro-Syria Ba'th Party organization, in order to woo these groups and to ensure that they do not provide military support to the Amal Movement in its conflict with Hizballah.

Red Army Groups Said To Operate in Al-Biq'a
NC1402161689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Several groups from the Japanese Red Army were seen recently in Al-Biq'a, Ta'lbaya, Al-Marj, and Shtawrah. The groups, commanded by (Mizakawai), operate under the protection of the Abu Nidal (Sabri al-Banna) group and the Revolutionary Brigades.

Syrians Said To Seize Arms, Ammo for PFLP
NC1302185289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] According to security information from Iqlim al-Kharrub, Syrian forces seized a pickup truck as it was passing through their roadblock in 'Alman early this week. It has been learned that the truck was carrying arms and ammunition bound for the PFLP led by Dr George Habash.

In another development, Syrian occupation forces negotiated with the Nasirite Popular Organization for the release of a truck seized by that group's gunmen on the Al-Awwali bridge. According to security information, the truck was laden with a large amount of dynamite.

When stopped, the driver said the shipment was consigned to the Syrian contracting company Qasyun, which has been awarded projects in areas in southern Lebanon.

16 January Group Claims Attack on Syrians
NC1402075289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups attacked a Syrian occupation troop position in Al-Mina' area at 0400 today. The position houses Captain Yusuf's headquarters. According to the organization, two Syrians were wounded in the attack. The Syrian occupation troops conducted a search operation in the area afterwards.

Resistance Fighters Attack Position in South
NC1402104289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Resistance fighters in the south today attacked an agent militia position on Al-Shumariyah hill using rockets and automatic weapons. The militias' losses in the operation could not be determined.

Voice of Hope Radio Reportedly Closes Down 9 Feb
NC1302224689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] According to reports received from the occupied border strip, the Agent militia's radio station called the Voice of Hope stopped broadcasting 5 days ago. Persons

arriving yesterday from the so-called security strip area said that the station has been closed down and that Israeli technical units dismantled the transmitters in Al-Dardarah plain, between Marj 'Uyun and Al-Khiyam, and moved them to inside the Zionist state.

The Voice of Hope was established in 1972. In the past 3 years it has been the target of three attacks by resistance fighters, and in one of them the building housing the station was completely destroyed.

[Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic has been unheard at Nicosia Bureau since 4 February 1989]

Will Resume Transmission
NC1402083689 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
13 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] A spokesman for the media and guidance branch in the Southern Lebanese Army responded to reports distributed by various mass media, including AL-NAHAR, that the radio Voice of Hope, whose Arabic-language programs are supervised by the branch, has stopped transmission completely. The spokesman announced that the radio will resume transmission in early March, at the latest, after the technical team completes improvements designed to boost transmission.

EC Foreign Ministers Make Visit to Damascus

Hold News Conference

JN1302172689 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1535 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—The EC-affiliated three-nation committee (the troika), headed by Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and comprising France's Roland Dumas and Greece's Karolos Papoulias, held a news conference this afternoon with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in attendance.

Opening the news conference, the foreign minister welcomed the troika. Al-Shar' said the committee had fruitful and positive talks with the Syrian Government on the Middle East, with an accent on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The foreign minister said there was a convergence of views on numerous points, including support for a UN-sponsored international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the five Security Council permanent members plus all the parties to the dispute, including the PLO.

Al-Shar' added: We also agreed that an overall settlement will have to be based on total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land and assurance of Palestinian self-determination. There exists a common desire that the peace process in the Middle East must be invigorated and any solution must be fair and just, declared Al-Shar'.

Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, who heads the committee, called its visit to Syria very appropriate in light of Syria's position in the Middle East and its potentially key role in the region's peace process.

His meetings with Syrian officials, he added, were extremely useful and important, taking up all issues related to the Middle East. Syria, he said, supports all of the international and EC efforts on behalf of convening a UN-sponsored international conference.

The Spanish minister added that the three-man committee will report on its tour to an EC foreign ministers meeting set for Madrid tomorrow, Tuesday. Fernandez-Ordonez was asked to assess the outcome of the committee's talks with the parties concerned with the Middle East.

He said we will explore avenues for resuscitating the peace process and examine whether an international conference can make progress in this direction.

Asked if Europe can bring pressure to bear on Israel to agree to an international conference, Fernandez-Ordonez said Europe has made its position clear.

We will continue to work on the basis of our commitment to peace and attempt to find viable terms for the establishment of peace, said the Spanish foreign minister. The pressure that counts is that applied by the international community rather than the EC alone.

Asked about EC recognition of the Palestinian state, the Spanish foreign minister said the matter was left for the member nations to decide individually rather than as a bloc.

Asked whether Syria would be willing to attend the international conference without Israel's agreement to evacuate the Golan heights, Faruq al-Shar' said peace in the Middle East is unthinkable short of Israel's pullout from the Golan and all of the occupied Arab land.

The Israelis will have to state unequivocally beforehand their preparedness to consent to withdraw from all of the occupied land, including the Golan, as a consequence of the conference.

Asked whether there were areas of disagreement between the Syrian and EC sides, the Spanish diplomat said there has been, as Mr al-Shar' pointed out, agreement on a number of points. Of course a good many points came up for discussion, which I don't think will be helpful or appropriate for me to go into now.

On a possible higher profile by the EC in the Mideast peace process and the shape of such an involvement, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez noted the importance of setting up a preparatory committee for the conference. Europe, he said, is prepared to lend a hand in this effort.

France's Dumas on Relations

JN1302183189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] The European troika delegation's visit to Syria has ended and the Spanish, French, and Greek foreign ministers have left for Madrid. They were seen off at the airport by their Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar'.

On the results of the visit, Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said that President al-Asad affirmed to the European delegation Syria's support for any efforts that will benefit the peace process and lead to a just peace in the Middle East.

President al-Asad added that Syria wants to establish a just peace based on the following:

1. Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.
2. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination.
3. The Palestinian state.

4. The PLO's participation in the peace process.

5. The suitable formula for the attainment of such a peace lying in the convocation of an international conference under UN auspices and the participation of all the parties concerned.

Kuriyah added that President al-Asad told the European delegation that, while Syria supports a just peace and calls for an international conference, Israel remains committed to the policy of expansion and rejects the convocation of an international conference. [passage omitted]

In statements to our radio, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said the Lebanese crisis was discussed during the talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Dumas said: We exchanged viewpoints and listened attentively to the Syrian viewpoint. We scrutinized the current state of affairs in Lebanon. Dumas added: We

agreed that the Lebanese problem should be solved by the Lebanese themselves, and the international community must do its best to prevent the partitioning of Lebanon.

Dumas said he is satisfied with the development of French-Syrian relations. He said: Our political relations have taken a new turn in light of my direct talks with Minister al-Shar'.

He added: I have invited him to visit France very soon to pursue our comprehensive discussions.

USSR's Shevardnadze To Visit Damascus 17-19 Feb
JN1302200889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1915 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] In response to an invitation by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politbureau member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, is to make an official and cordial visit to the Syrian Arab Republic from 17 to 19 February 1989.

During his visit to Damascus, Shevardnadze will hold talks with the Syrian leadership on bilateral relations and regional and global developments.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin 5 km From Jalalabad; Expect Surrender
*LD1402150688 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT
14 Feb 89*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 14, IRNA—Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have been stationed five kms from the strategic city of Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, and expect that government troops will surrender themselves.

A commander of Afghan mujahidin troops said to IRNA in Peshawar Monday that the liberation of provincial capital of Jalalabad is "very easy" for the revolutionaries. But, he added, they have not yet done so for fear of vast bloodshed.

About 300 government troops have already submitted themselves to the mujahidin in their advance towards Jalalabad, according to the commander. Another report says the mujahidin pushed government forces out of the outskirts of Khowst, Paktia Province on February 11.

Observers foresee continued clashes between the mujahidin and Afghan Government forces both during and after the pull-out from Afghanistan of the remaining Soviet troops.

More Soviet Troops Leave Kabul for Home
*LD1302170988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Text] A section of the last unit of the Soviet limited contingents stationed in Kabul left Kabul international airport this morning for home after completing their internationalist duties in Afghanistan, and in accordance with the Geneva accords.

According to a BIA military section report, a number of local and foreign journalists watched the process of the withdrawal of this unit of Soviet military contingents, and held a number of interviews in connection with the completion of their internationalist duties in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Government, Rebel Commanders Hold 'Peace Talks'
*BK1402125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Feb 89*

[Text] Peace talks have begun in Kabul between the Afghan Government and some influential rebel commanders. Reporting this Moscow radio did not identify the number of rebel commanders taking part in the negotiations.

Meanwhile, TASS said that the last Soviet soldier will leave Afghan soil by midday tomorrow complying with the deadline set out in the Geneva accord.

Shura Holds Preparatory Meeting 13 Feb
*BK1302162689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Text] The preparatory meeting of the Consultative Council of Afghan mujahidin was held in Islamabad this evening for a consensus decision on the future of an interim government after withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The council, consisting of nearly 400 members, also discussed procedural matters.

A spokesman of the shura later told newsmen that the council will meet in a regular session tomorrow to discuss the formula for an interim government.

He described the allegations of the puppet regime's chief, Mr Najibullah, that Pakistan will attack Afghanistan as nothing more than a sheer propaganda stunt to divert world attention from events taking place inside Afghanistan.

Fails To Resolve 'Differences'
*BK1402100289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT
14 Feb 89*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 (AFP)—A crucial assembly called by Afghan rebel mujahidin groups to form an interim government for Afghanistan resumed Tuesday as the last Soviet soldiers quit their country, but failed to resolve sectarian differences.

Resistance sources said all the seven party heads based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar bordering Afghanistan were attending the meeting, described as the first working session of the traditional shura, or consultative council.

But no Shi'ite rebel leaders based in Iran were present at the meeting which started at 11 a.m. (around 0600 GMT) at the hajj complex in nearby Rawalpindi.

The supreme council of the Peshawar alliance held intensive discussions overnight but failed to agree on granting more than the stipulated 60 seats to the eight-party Shi'ite group in the 526 member shura, resistance sources said.

The first meeting Friday was adjourned after a brief inaugural session boycotted by the Shi'ite groups who insisted on 100 seats as agreed by the current chief of the Peshawar alliance, the moderate Sibghatullah Mojadeddi.

Mr. Mojadeddi was overruled by the fundamentalist parties in the alliance.

Iran sent Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Moayeri to Islamabad Sunday in a bid to resolve the dispute. Resistance sources said he talked with the Pakistan based rebel leaders to press the Shi'ite's demand, and official

Pakistani sources said he also delivered a personal message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the subject, but there had been no breakthrough.

The resistance sources said the rebels' proposed interim government would be presented for the shura's approval in Tuesday's session. The council will be given ample time to discuss the government line-up before according its recognition, the sources said.

The rebels' council includes some field commanders, former diplomats and Afghan technocrats who have gathered here as members of different resistance factions. Some ex-ministers are also attending, but the Soviet-backed ruling Peoples' Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was not allowed representation.

The rebels' government is to replace the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces slated to be completed by Wednesday in line with last year's Geneva accords.

The rebels believe Mr. Najibullah will not survive long against pressure from the mujahidin guerrillas, which would increase with the Soviet pullout.

UN Notified of Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

Memorandums 210, 211 Delivered
LD1102100289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The Coordination Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry with the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that Memorandums 210 and 211 of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning 26 cases of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed to the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul today.

The notes point out that Pakistan, by dispatching various types of weapons to the extremist opposition groups, intensifies war in our country and causes the martyrdom and injury of hundreds of our innocent people.

An example of such actions is the recent rocket attack on the residential areas of Kabul by extremist groups, which was undoubtedly fulfilled with the direct backing and assistance of Pakistan.

The memorandum requests the delegation to assess the violations mentioned in the two notes.

213th Note Sent to UNGOMAP
LD1202101889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 11, BAKHTAR—213th Notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP, in Kabul.

The notice explained the continuation of sending of caravans of assorted weapons and ammunitions through the territory of Pakistan to the Afghan extremists for the continuation of war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

The notice urged the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations of Pakistan as per the Paragraph seven of the fourth documents of the Geneva agreement.

214th, 215th Notices
LD1402095789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb 13 BAKHTAR—The 214th and 215th notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on the flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva agreements were handed over to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul on Feb 12.

The 214th notice describes the efforts of Pakistani authorities for the establishment of a so-called council belonging to the extremist formations without the participation of political (?groups) concerned inside and outside Afghanistan as contrary to the provisions of Geneva accords particularly its Para 716, Article 2 of Document No 1.

The UNGOMAP office has been asked to investigate Pakistan's violations in accordance with Para 7, Document No 4 of the Geneva agreements in this connection.

The 214th notice refers to the speech of Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan delivered on Feb 6 in the Pakistani city of Shikarpur in connection with the annexation of Afghanistan to Pakistan under the cover of a "confederation" as well as his call on the Afghan armed opposition to give a role to Pakistan in Afghanistan's destiny.

The notice asks the UNGOMAP office in Kabul to investigate into the matter in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph one, two, and seven of Article 2, Document No 1 of Geneva agreements.

The notice stipulates that this irresponsible action by the leadership of Pakistan runs counter to all international norms and has evoked the endless wrath and indignation of the (?freedom-born) people of Afghanistan.

Memorandums 216, 217 Delivered
LD1402101789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Memorandums 216 and 217 of the Foreign Ministry on Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords were handed to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) in Kabul by the Foreign Ministry's liaison office.

These memorandums give accurate information on nine cases of flagrant violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords. The delegation is requested to assess the violations noted in the memorandums in accordance with Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the accords.

Commentary Warns of Pakistani 'Expansion' Aims
LD1302212889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] At a news conference in Beijing recently, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said she was not aware that Pakistani military forces had been concentrated along the border with the Republic of Afghanistan. A BAKHTAR political commentator writes the following in this regard:

Benazir Bhutto's statement comes at a time when the Pakistani Armed Forces not only have been deployed along the eastern border of the Republic of Afghanistan but, according to recent substantial evidence of Afghanistan the security services of the Republic of Afghanistan have (come closer) to Chaman region, also Province along our southern border. near Qandahar

The prime minister of Pakistan says that Pakistan, as a developing country, is unable to think of annexing Afghanistan.

Although the Republic of Afghanistan what Benazir Bhutto said—because we does not deny Pakistan is indeed a developing country we agree that Pakistan problems—we wonder in that case why which has its own that country has made grandiose claims the president of annexing Afghan territory [words indistinct].

We recall that Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, openly said once again in (Shikarpur) a few days ago [words indistinct] of the role of Pakistani people and they Afghanistan. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the same time, did not hide his aim with regard to the same time, did Afghans. [passage indistinct] gratitude of the

For example, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar—confidence of Ziaul Haq, former Pakistani president—has also spoken about the creation of a confederation. This categorically proves the existence of such a plan within Pakistani militarist circles.

On top of all this, Ms Bhutto has made this statement just when Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expresses his desire to annex Afghanistan to Pakistan under the guise of a confederation. How can these statements by the prime minister and president of Pakistan be interpreted?

Are they pursuing two separate policies or did the current Pakistani prime minister not discuss the idea of a confederation openly at her press conference? Such contradictory statements are indicative that the Pakistani militarists have a strategy for the annexation of Afghanistan under the guise of a confederation or by military measures [words indistinct].

The truth is that the Pakistani militarists—both when Ziaul Haq was alive and since his death—have for the past decade been intent upon expansion in order to build a bigger and more influential Pakistan. In the past, top Pakistani authorities always spoke of [words indistinct] danger as if the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan threatened their security.

If the concentration of Pakistani forces along the border is not for aggressive and interventionist purposes, then how can it be justified now that the last Soviet troops are departing Afghanistan?

Now, in order to gain control of our homeland, the Pakistani militarist circles want to reach secret agreements with the extremist opposition leaders as a step toward creating a puppet regime in Afghanistan upon which they can impose their will. [passage indistinct]

Leaders' Congratulations on Iran's Anniversary

Najibullah Greets Khomeyni
LD1002180889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Afghan President Najibullah sent the following congratulatory message to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

I present the most sincere congratulations of the Afghan people and of myself to you and the fraternal Iranian people on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Let me take this auspicious opportunity to express the wish that relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran improve in line with the ancient traditions and customs of historic friendship and fraternity in the interest of both peoples and in the interest of establishing peace in the region and the world.

In expressing my best regards and wishes for your health and long life for your eminence I pray for the prosperity and advancement of the fraternal Iranian people.

Afghan President Najibullah also sent the following message to Iranian president Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Iran:

I am pleased to express the best congratulations of the people, government and myself to you and through you to the government and fraternal people of Iran on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Iran.

At this historic moment, when both the people of Afghanistan and Iran are making every effort to establish and consolidate peace in their country, naturally, the normalization of the traditional ties between our countries enjoys an urgency and special importance in realizing this goal. We believe in this need.

Dear brother, please accept my best wishes for your health and success, advancement, and prosperity, and a long-lasting peace for the fraternal people of Iran.

Sharq Greets Musavi

LD1002205689 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 10 Feb 89

["Text" of message of congratulations from Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq to Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] I present, on behalf of Afghanistan's Government and people and myself, the best wishes and congratulations to you and through you to the government and fraternal people of Iran.

Relations between our two countries and our Muslim people have been created in a favorable climate with the development of the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan, the implementation of the Geneva accords, and positive developments which have occurred in the spheres of international and regional ties.

We believe that they will improve in the interest of our people and countries and in consolidating peace and stability in the region and the world.

May I take this opportunity to wish almighty God's permanent peace and prosperity on your eminence and the Muslim people of Iran.

Wakil Cables Velayati

LD1002210489 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 10 Feb 89

["Text" of message of congratulations from Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil to Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on occasion of 10th founding anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] I convey to Your Excellency my sincere wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with our honest desire for the normalization of traditional Afghan-Iranian ties.

PDPA Meeting Discusses Army Composition
LD1302222389 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Today general meetings were held in primary party organizations in Kabul to dispatch members of the PDPA, the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan [DYOA], trade unions, and other volunteers to the Army. PDPA Central Committee Politburo members and some party Central Committee members participated in the meeting. [passage omitted]

Members of the primary party organization voluntarily registered with the units of the revolution's troops. [passage omitted]

It was emphasized in the PDPA Central Committee Politburo resolution that the independent units of the Revolution Troops will be formed from male members of the PDPA, the DYOA, and trade unions and other compatriots. In Kabul Province independent units of the Revolution Guards are to be set up alongside the Special Guards and State Security units and in other provinces the troops are to be established in discretion of the military garrison as part and parcel of related garrisons.

The troops will be administered and rallied in coordination with the party committees by related garrisons. Kabul Revolution Troops will discharge their duties in Kabul and the units of provinces will fulfill their duties in their home provinces. Service duration of the troops will be from 3 to 6 months.

They will have the privileges of the Special Guard units. Their service period will be counted as a part of their employment. The political activists of military units will be selected from cadres of the PDPA, the DYOA, and social and state organizations which introduce them as the Revolution Troops.

Similarly, other interested people can also join the Revolution Troops. In the future the details of those joining the Revolution Troops will be outlined.

Nangarhar Governor Discusses Security Situation
LD1302194489 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1600 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] [Announcer] A Radio Afghanistan reporter held a telephone interview today with Manokay Mangal, governor of Nangarhar Province, in connection with the effectiveness of Afghan President Najibullah's speech on the irresponsible assertions by the Pakistani president, the repeated violations by the Pakistani Army into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the deployment of Pakistani forces along the border. We now draw your attention to it.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Esteemed Brigadier General Monokay Mangal, governor of Nangarhar, in continuing our series of telephone conversations with provincial leaders, we would like to have a telephone conversation with you.

We want to know your view about Pakistani Government's shameless interference in Afghan affairs, particularly in the eastern zone.

[Gen Manokay Mangal] Taking into account the strategic importance and the tribal and bordering characteristic of Nangarhar Province and the eastern zone, we are increasingly concerned about Pakistan's growing direct military interference.

The deployment of Pakistan's new military forces in the region of the free tribes along the border with the Republic of Afghanistan is against the protocols, which had been signed during the creation of Pakistan. According to these protocols they were not allowed to deploy such military forces in the free zones of Pashtuns tribes.

Contrary to those protocols they have placed around 20 military units with the formations of battalions, regiments and brigades in the main border regions of Bajawar, Nawakay, (Chatral) and so on.

They provide assistance—ammunition, training, vehicles, and intelligence—to the extremists in combat operations in Nangarhar Province. More than 3,000 Pakistani militias are organized in an orderly manner among the extremists groups in Nangarhar Province and take part in practice against our military forces.

The Pakistani Army has placed three complete units and companies of air defense forces and a radar unit and company in the tribal regions. During the last month Pakistani aircraft transported military advisers and opposition leaders to Nangarhar Province 16 times.

A good example of this are the air space violations [words indistinct] and four military helicopters of Pakistan were (?destroyed) by our Armed Forces.

I wanted to inform you and my dear compatriots that we held the extraordinary plenum of Nangarhar Party Provincial Committee on 18th Jadi [7 January] and announced the military situation to all the party members and social organizations. They accepted with fervor and enthusiasm this military section of the party. At the moment this work is nearing completion. Then, based on this decision, the Council of Defense decided that all the state employees and patriots of Nangarhar Province should be mobilized in defense of the homeland, Nangarhar, and the beautiful city of Jalalabad.

The enemy carried out an attack on 17 Jadi [6 January]. As a result of this attack they suffered crushing blows by the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar, the people of Nangarhar and the PDPA. They lost more than 900

combatants. As a result of these casualties some disorder was created in emigrants' camps in Pakistan. Issuing false promises that they will capture Jalalabad and give 10,000 rupees to each person who wants to come to plunder and steal and capture Jalalabad city, they gathered people. It was then that another crushing blow was inflicted on them on 18 Dalw [6 February]. According to our statistics more than 700 persons were crushed. However, according to Western radio reports, their [the opposition] casualties have totaled more than 1,000.

On 22 Dalw [10 February] crushing blows were inflicted on the enemy in Rudjan district; 89 enemies were crushed, including 9 British advisers. Two nights ago, we attacked the enemy in the Chapliar Khwar district. As a result of this heroic attack by our security bodies, 20 enemies were crushed, 25 were injured, and 30 were captured.

Tonight, our security bodies attacked 30 km deep inside the enemy position. Sixteen enemies were crushed and seven were captured alive.

The enemy intended to create disorder inside the city. While attacking Jalalabad city, they caused explosions and fires. Our security forces have captured 45 persons, elements, and agents of the enemies.

The march that took place in Kabul and the esteemed President Najibullah's speech and the radio-television speech of the esteemed president on 24 Dalw, [12 February] have created a new spirit in our province, in people, in the armed forces, and in civil and state organs, following which the heroic people of (Shinwar) and Mowmand have pledged and have introduced a cash payment paid by the infringers of a pledge by tribal people through their jirgas that they will give such lessons to the aggressors as their ancestors were given.

The people of Khugiani have been rallied in regular units and they are in the first defense lines. They are confronting the enemy and every day they inflict crushing blows on the enemy. Right now the residents of Jalalabad city and the heroic people of Sorkh Rud are being organized in military units and the process continues with great speed.

Our sisters and mothers have once again worn red chadurs and want to keep alive the memories of Zarghona Ana, Malalay, and (Jamray Batikoti) and create further epics.

I would like to say that esteemed Najibullah's speech at the great march in Kabul and his speech transmitted by radio and television on 24th Dalw [12 February] has caused a profound affect among the enemy. They have written to me and have contacted me. They say they now know the purpose of this war, who is Muslim and who fights for Islam. They say that their leaders and Pakistani militarists do not want Islam but they want to enter

Afghanistan in Panjabi federation, [and they assert] they will not give an inch of their land, like their fathers and ancestors, to Pakistanis and to Pakistani militarists.

They are to be immediately instructed to start fighting against them. Just now differences among [the mujahidin] in the eastern zone in Nangarhar Province are very serious. Clashes [among them] continue. Those self-sold servants of Pakistani militarists and Pakistani capitalists, who have conducted attacks against the territorial integrity of the country, have faced the gallant Pashtuns of the area.

I would like to repeat Comrade Najibullah's slogans, which say: Death or Victory. Death or the motherland. And Esteemed Najibullah's slogan, which says we lose our heads but not the trench, and [the Pashtuns] heroically fight under this slogan. I, on behalf of the Armed Forces, on behalf of the PDPA, and social organizations and on behalf of the noble people of Nangarhar assure esteemed Afghan President Najibullah and the people of Afghanistan that the eastern door of Afghanistan is an invincible shield of the defense of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The proud members of the PDPA, social organizations and the noble people of Nangarhar with the highest morale and the highest combat preparation are ready to repulse and dislodge any enemy attack. They must be sure that with the grandeur of the Spin Ghar mountains and like our forefathers, we defend the beautiful land of the eastern zone; and the enemy, like their ancestors, will continue to hope that we will enter a federation or a confederation with the enemy.

[Reporter] Thank you Brigadier General Manokay Mangal, governor of Nangrahar. We wish you success. [end recording]

BAKHTAR on Opposition Consultative Council
LD1202112389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0427 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 11. BAKHTAR—The formation of a consultative council by the leaders of the extremist elements is nothing but something fabricated by the militarymen and the secret services of Pakistan. It is amazing that the council which wants to form the likely future government of Afghanistan is being formed under strict security measures outside Rawalpindi city much further from the territory of Afghanistan in which most of the interested political forces have not participated.

A spokesman of the seven-alliance had said a few days ago that the support of the Soviet Union to the PDPA is an intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Let us judge that the holding of a consultative council of the "seven-alliance" in Rawalpindi city under the supervision of Pakistani militarymen is not an explicit intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Let us also ask from those who were claiming to defend

[quotation marks as received] the country how they have become prepared to determine the destiny of the country hundreds of km farther from their ancient homeland.

We believe that if the consultative council could be formed with the vast participation of all domestic forces involved in the issues in that case the political forces of Afghanistan could certainly put an end to war and bloodshed. Whereas, how a unilateral consultative council which is merely confined to the opposition can represent the will of the people of Afghanistan and how such a council will be able to take a step towards ensuring peace by ignoring the other sides involved in the conflict. [sentence as received]

The formation of such council, can not make any contribution to the creation of a broad-based coalition government which is agreed by all the people of the world but intensifies war and confrontation.

The opposition's council will be faced with the fate of the "interim government" which was established a few months ago and has been ruled out by now.

It has been reported that the agreement between the "seven-alliance" and the eight-alliance has been broken at the threshold of holding the council as a result of a rivaling stance taken by the fundamentalist groups.

Senate Chairman Regrets Embassy Closures
LD1002093989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 9, BAKHTAR—Dr. Mahmoud Habibi, chairman of the Senate of National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, granted in his office an interview to Perry Andre Kroll a Swiss journalist.

Chairman of the senate answered the questions of the journalist on the situation around Afghanistan, national reconciliation policy, National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan and its socio-political role in the country, the role of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and national figures inside and outside Afghanistan who play their role in establishing peace in Afghanistan.

Replying to a question of the journalist, chairman of the Senate expressed his regret on the closure of the embassies of the Western countries in Kabul and called it part of the psychological war against Afghanistan.

India

Union Carbide Agrees To Pay \$470 Million
BK1402105289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT
14 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 14 (AFP)—The Indian Supreme Court Tuesday asked the U.S. multinational Union Carbide Corp. to pay 470 million dollars in compensation for the December 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

The leak of deadly methyl iso-cyanate from the Carbide plant in Bhopal, the world's worst industrial disaster, killed 1,700 people in one night. Deaths from the effects of inhaling the gas has so far reached 3,350.

Thousands more people have been maimed or crippled by exposure to the gas. A five-judge bench of the country's highest court headed by Chief Justice R.S. Pathak handed down the judgment saying the amount was a "just, fair, equitable and reasonable sum."

Union Carbide counsel Fali Nariman relayed Union Carbide's acceptance of the proposal to the court, after receiving a nod of assent from company officials sitting in the back rows, eyewitnesses said.

Counsel for the Indian Government, which took up the legal battle for some 520,000 victims in 1986, accepted the compensation awarded by the court, although it was far less than the three billion dollars it had demanded.

The court asked Union Carbide Corp. to pay the full amount by March 31 and ruled that a case against the U.S. giant pending in a Bhopal court would be quashed.

The court also directed Union Carbide and the Indian Government to sign a memorandum of the settlement in court Wednesday.

Mob Protests U.S. Publication of 'Satanic Verses'
BK1302155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] One person was killed when police resorted to firing to disperse a violent mob at Fatehkadal area of Srinagar City today. The mob was protesting against the publication of the book "Satanic Verses" in the United States.

According to a police spokesman, the mob started collecting from early in the morning defying prohibitory orders and indulged in heavy stone throwing. Twenty policemen were among the injured. Ten miscreants have been arrested. A bundh [strike] was also observed in the city against the publication of the book.

France Offers Advanced Military Hardware Package
BK1302163589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 13 (AFP)—France has offered India a package of advanced military hardware and technology to bolster New Delhi's ambitious missile programme and expanding Air Force, a French official said here Monday.

The French Government-backed Groupement des Industries Francais Aeronautiques et Spatiales (GIFAS) has offered New Delhi advanced technology for India's current light combat aircraft (LCA) project, GIFAS' local representative Patrick Guerin said.

New Delhi jointly completed the initial definition phase of its futuristic LCA project with the French company Avions Marcel Dassault and British Aerospace in September 1988 and subsequently announced the first gas turbine engine prototype had been tested successfully.

Mr. Guerin did not identify the type of avionics package GIFAS had offered for the light combat plane project which its backers say could, if successful, gain India an edge over its neighbours.

Speaking at a news conference here, Mr. Guerin said GIFAS had offered to sell India its latest air-to-air long-range interception missile (Super-530) and a short-range combat missile for the Indian Air Force.

The GIFAS representative here neither disclosed the range of the two missile systems nor New Delhi's response to the French offer.

India successfully tested a 250-kilometre (155-mile) range surface-to-surface (SS) missile called "Prithvi" (Earth) in March.

It plans to build a 2,500-kilometre (1,553-mile) range SS missile codenamed "Agni" (Fire) to cap a programme it launched in 1983 to produce its own combat missile systems and slash imports.

The Soviet Union is India's main arms supplier.

Mr. Guerin said negotiations were continuing over an offer of a trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force. Several countries including Britain have offered trainer jets to India but New Delhi has yet to finalise its choice.

He said India was also discussing GIFAS' offer of the latest navigation equipment, but did not elaborate.

India's defence spending in 1987-88 totalled 9.6 billion dollars [currency not further specified], or 20 percent of total government spending, and observers said it could reach 11.5 billion dollars in the coming financial year.

The French are hopeful of impressing Indian buyers through a three-day aeronautical and space conference beginning here Wednesday [15 February].

Mr. Guerin said the conference will take up for discussion new materials and technology as well as modern combat aircraft design techniques.

Gandhi on Better Relations With Pakistan
BK1302080189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that relations between New Delhi and Islamabad could be better in some political fields, following the recent democratic set up in Pakistan.

He, however, feared that at the same time bilateral dealings in some other sectors could possibly be difficult. Mr Gandhi said much depended on the attitude of the new government in Islamabad.

In an interview published in a leading West German daily, the prime minister reiterated India's keenness in having good neighborly relations with Pakistan. Mr Gandhi maintained that the real problem of foreign policy was in creating a genuine international atmosphere and a worldwide attitude that humanity is more important than the division of the people.

Manipur 'Extremists' Kill 4 Policemen 13 Feb
BK1302161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] According to a PTI report, four CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel were killed when suspected extremists belonging to the so-called People's Liberation Army ambushed their vehicle at (Moirang Konzen Akapt) area, 45 km from the Manipur capital Imphal today.

Four other CRPF personnel were injured in the attack. One civilian died in the shootout which followed. The extremists took away the arms from the CRPF vehicle while escaping.

Violence in Kokrajhar District; Army Alerted
BK1402080389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] In Assam, several sporadic incidents of violence have been reported from tribal-dominated Kokrajhar District. Official reports reaching Guwahati say that extremists last night opened fire on a passenger train at Kokrajhar station, causing serious injuries to the driver of the train.

Miscreants also hurled two powerful bombs on railway tracks between Patiladoha and Danktal stations, causing damage to the tracks. Armed extremists also ransacked the Sisapani railway station from where three railway employees are reported missing since yesterday.

Another report from Guwahati said that a group of extremists armed with lethal weapons ransacked several long-distance night superbuses and private vehicles on national highway near Jagi Road in Nowgong District.

Meanwhile, Northeastern Frontier Railways has decided to run most of their train services under escort during the proposed 120-hour Assam bundh [strike] called by All Bodo Students Union from Thursday [16 February]. Official sources told our Guwahati correspondent that the Army has been alerted to stand by to assist civil authorities in maintaining law and order.

The government has also tightened the security measures throughout Kokrajhar District in view of increasing violent incidents.

5 Burmese Trawlers With 44 Crewmen Seized
BK1302162789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 13 (AFP)—Indian Coast Guards have taken into custody some five Burmese fishing trawlers with a crew of 44 in the Bay of Bengal, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Monday.

The trawlers, found allegedly fishing in Indian waters, were caught off the Andaman Islands and were being brought to Port Blair, the islands' capital, a senior official there was quoted as saying.

Captain Bimal Kumar, Coast Guard commanding officer of the Indian-held group of islands, reportedly identified the two trawlers as Habba Khatun and Jijabhai [as received].

52 Fishermen Apprehended
BK1402091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] In Andaman and Nicobar Islands the Coast Guard has apprehended 52 Burmese fishermen. They were found fishing illegally in territorial waters near the northern group of the islands.

Our Port Blair correspondent reports that this is the biggest arrest made by the Coast Guard in the islands.

Iran

Khomeyni Exhorts Muslims To 'Execute' Rushdie
LD1402112289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Following the publication of a book entitled "Satanic Verses" in Europe and the United States, in which the sacred integrity of the highly esteemed Prophet of Islam has been impugned, Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the creator of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has issued a message addressed to the world's Muslim community. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God Almighty. There is only one God, to whom we shall all return. I would like to inform all the intrepid Muslims in the world, that the author of the book entitled "Satanic Verses"—which has been compiled, printed, and published in opposition to Islam, to the Prophet, and to the Koran—as well as those publishers who were aware of its contents are sentenced to death.

I call on all the zealous Muslims to execute them quickly, wherever they find them, so that no one will dare to insult the Islamic sanctities.

Whoever is killed on this path will be regarded as a martyr, God willing. In addition, if anyone has access to the author of the book, but does not possess the power to execute him, he should point him out to the people, so that he may be punished for his actions.

May God's blessing be on you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

[Dated] 14 February 1989

Daily Commentary on 'Satanic Verses' Cited
LD1402105789 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT
14 Feb 89

["Paper Calls on Muslims To Continue Protest Against Sacreligious Book on Islam"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Tuesday in an editorial called on Muslims all over the world to continue protesting against the book "Satanic Verses" written by an Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie.

The book, first published in Britain, has been banned in a number of countries for its blasphemous descriptions of the Prophet of Islam and other early Islamic personalities.

Last Sunday thousands of persons stormed the U.S. Cultural Centre in Pakistani capital Islamabad to protest against the publication of the book in America. Police opened fire on the crowd killing at least five persons and injuring several others. According to Pakistani police sources at least 65 persons have been killed or wounded in the riot. Some reports said shots were fired from inside the cultural centre.

Pakistan's Islamic parties and groups have called for further protests against the insult of the Koran and have demanded an explanation from Pakistani officials. They have also called for immediate investigation into the incident.

The daily said that the Pakistani Muslims would not tolerate the insult to Islam or the shooting of protestors by U.S. guards inside the centre.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the sacrilegious book was aimed at spreading a false picture of Islam in order to restrict the spread of Islam.

"Enemies of Islam now in complete shamelessness are trying to insult the sanctity of Islam and their target is the whole of the Islamic community," the daily stressed.

It said the publication of the book is indicative of the deep-rooted hatred of world oppressors against Islam and the holy Koran. "This will not be tolerated by the Islamic world," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI emphasized.

The editorial concluded by calling on the Muslims, in particular the ulema, to vehemently protest such Islam-insulting moves. The duty of Muslims vis-a-vis insults against Islam is clear, and no government has the right to crush the protest of Muslims, it added.

'Conspiracy' Seen in Islamabad Protest Shootings
LD1302212189 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Commentary entitled "CIA Conspiracy and Muslims' Wrath"]

[Text] Pakistani Muslims' protest rally in front of the U.S. information center in Islamabad [words indistinct] and according to reports at least five people have been martyred and at least over 60 others wounded as a result of police firing at the protesters. The demonstration was staged as a token of protest against the granter of [word indistinct] for the publication of Salman Roshti's anti-Islamic book, "Satanic Verses," in America.

Salman Rushdie, a British resident of Indian origin, has lately been exploited for propaganda clamor at a vast level by the mass media controlled by European and American spying networks and his book which is an insult to the sanctity of Islam and the prophet of Islam has been used for this purpose. Salman Rushdie, as an inferior CIA agent and in his capacity as a writer having superficial knowledge and [word indistinct] whose like are not few in European and American markets, is so insignificant to draw anyone's attention.

However, the well organized anti-Islamic move that has been launched in this regard by the Western spying networks with the direct support of international Zionism has totally aroused the wrath of the believing and revolutionary Muslims across the world in a way that in London itself, that is in the center for organizing anti-Islamic moves, the Muslims have staged protests and marched on several occasions against the publication of Salman Rushdie's book.

Penguin publications, whose overt and covert links with the Zionist circles can hardly be doubted, first published Salman Rushdie's anti-Islamic book in London and it appears that identical activities are currently under way to publish this book in America at a vast level.

It is this very issue which has aroused the Pakistani Muslims' protests and also that of millions of other Muslims. Gathering of thousands of Pakistani Muslims inside of the U.S. information center in Islamabad, while speaking of the revolutionary and Islamic vigilance is also indicative of the reality that from the viewpoint of world Muslims, the role of America's spy network in planning of an anti-Islamic atmosphere is so expanded that one cannot remain indifferent towards it.

In the opinion of the world Muslims, anti-Islamic moves such as Salman Rushdie's book are a part of the great conspiracy which has been organized by the global Zionism with the help of CIA, Mosad, and the intelligence service in hostility towards Islamic values and is being [word indistinct] by it.

The goal of this conspiracy too is evident. It is aimed at disturbing public minds vis-a-vis Islamic values and eventually at checking anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist movements all over the world. These are the movements that will lead to the growth of revolutionary Islam all over the globe and with the growth in Muslims' awareness about the Islamic injunctions and values will do away with the influence of the common [word indistinct] culture of the West throughout the Islamic world.

If we take a glance at similar moves, such as the publication of the Holy Koran including distorted verses by the Zionists in the occupied territories, a process that continued for many years and eventually met with the Muslims' wrath, one can precisely discern the true nature of the [word indistinct] well-planned moves.

The just wrath which came in the form of an explosion from the Muslims in Islamabad is discernable because of the fact that Salman Rushdie has introduced himself as a Muslim of Indian origin but it must regrettably be asked why did the police open fire at the Muslims who had targeted at the center of conspiracy against Islam and the Muslims?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on State of Revolution
LD1302184589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief and the Majlis speaker, responded in a television interview to questions from reporters of the first French television network. We draw your attention to parts of that interview.

In the interview, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied to a question about his assessment of the past 10 years of the revolution. He said: We were able to foil the multitude of the conspiracies which existed against our revolution and we were able to consolidate our revolution. We were able to stand alone in the face of the all-sided war launched against us by the Western and Eastern camps, Zionism, and domestic counter-revolutionary agents.

At certain junctures, we seriously threatened the enemy and we forced NATO to leave the Persian Gulf. From the point of view of construction, because of the war and the large number of forces we had on the fronts, we were able to achieve what we wanted. Nevertheless, a great many things were accomplished.

Referring to the heavy damage inflicted by the war, which has been estimated at over 100 billion dollars, the Majlis speaker said: We have assessed and calculated the war damage and, in future stages, which are linked with the resolution's clauses, we will announce that.

Responding to a question on whether the revolution has been well exported in the world during the past 10 years, the Majlis speaker said: Our aim was never to export the revolution by force or by interfering in the affairs of others. Of course, the propaganda onslaught of Western media, especially the Zionists, against the Islamic revolution, has, to a great extent, marred people's opinions of us. A large number of people in the world have not heard our side; they are either biased or else they have doubts. If the meaning of exporting revolution is to bring our message to people's ears, I must say that our aims are not yet sufficiently clear in the minds of the people of the world.

Concerning his possible candidacy in Iran's forthcoming presidential elections, which will be held in the summer, Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani said: Of course, I have not yet decided; but it seems as if I must be a candidate.

One of the French television correspondents asked if the normalization of Iranian-French relations and the visit of Roland Dumas to Iran can allow a useful closeness between the two countries. Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: There is the possibility for an extensive method of cooperation, because there is no obstacle on our part. Of course the past behavior of France vis-a-vis us was bad.

The French supported our counter-revolutionaries, and terrorism, giving them publicity and propaganda means, as well as overtly supporting Iraq, giving that regime vast arms resources. Further they froze our assets and have not yet paid our debts. Instead, they have helped our enemy. Despite all of this, if they are sincere now, I do not foresee a reason for lack of cooperation.

The acting commander in chief, in connection with a question regarding the validity of Amnesty International's report about execution of 1000 people in Iran since last summer, replied: This is one example of the biased propaganda against us. What has happened here is that the Munafiqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] used to send their members to Iraq as they were being released gradually. These people began their movement toward the Iranian territory, thinking that Iran is weak in the wake of the cease-fire.

Approximately 4000 or 5000 of these people have come over with full equipment, but only a few have managed to return. Such a loss for a guerrilla organization, which recruits members with great difficulty from outside the country, is not bearable. Therefore, to justify their loss, they have made claims about extensive executions in Iran. They have announced the names of those members lost during the clashes as those executed in Iran.

The Majlis speaker was asked whether he denies the allegations about executions, and whether he guarantees that no executions have taken place inside prisons. He said: Some of those who had assisted the Munafeqin in their attack on our country have been punished, but they were only a few cases. He added: I have read in the history of World War II that despite the fact that France was occupied by the Germans, the French executed many people who had cooperated with the Germans.

Is this right? Can you say how many they were? The correspondent replied: Of course, they did not execute all of them. Some of them were imprisoned. Their number reached into the hundreds. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: You can then be assured that the number here is lower than in France.

One correspondent said: Unfortunately, here we must talk about the issue of succession to Imam Khomeyni. It is claimed in the West that despite the appointment of Ayatollah Montazeri as his excellency imam's successor, several personalities will compete for that position. Do you think that you will play an important role in that contest? Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani replied: I think this is another sign of the Western ignorance about what is going on inside Iran. No one has any doubt that Ayatollah Montazeri is the undisputed successor to Imam Khomeyni. There is no rival for him in Iran.

We debated this in the Experts' Assembly some years ago, in which he was the only one who was considered and was selected unanimously. Our people approve of this choice. I do not need to play any role. This is a special case in which the high-ranking clergy [ulema] are more involved. I am only one member out of the 82 members of the Experts' Assembly. Of course I totally agree with the choice, considering it the right path. The issue of succession to his excellency the imam is no problem in Iran. Of course we pray that the imam should live for many more years, so as to benefit us. But, God forbid, should the issue of succession arrive one day, the succession of Ayatollah Montazeri will be implemented without any problem.

Musavi Cites Media Attacks on Revolution
LD1302180689 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Ceremonies were held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of formation of Islamic Revolution Committees, IRCs. Prime Minister Musavi, Interior Minister Mohtashemi, some members of the imam's secretariat, and families of martyrs attended the ceremonies. The ceremonies were held in Martyr Mohammad Montazeri's complex.

During these ceremonies, Prime Minister Musavi described the activities of that institution during the last 10 years. In connection with the attacks on the revolution by the mass media he said: In these days, most of the media and radio stations have put the revolution under

question. By their inductions and suggestions, they intend to say that the revolution has not attained its goals. In this connection one must say that their most important intention is to use the weak spirits inside the country as their target. They seek to sow seeds of doubt in people's minds about the revolution.

However, our nation in its marches on 11 February replied in full to all such claims. They rushed to the streets to renew their allegiance with the imam and declared their total adherence to all the real values of Islam.

During these ceremonies, Interior Minister Mohtashemi also spoke: The IRC guards have been the best source of support for the country during the last 10 years. Today, even further, they are powerfully fulfilling their duties for serving the government.

Velayati Returns From New York; Comments
NC1402071089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Velayati spoke on the outcome of his visits to New York, Britain, Spain, and Oman in an interview with an IRNA correspondent at Esfahan airport.

The foreign minister, whose plane had to land in Esfahan because of bad weather in Tehran, in commenting on the outcome of the talks in New York, said that on the basis of agreements, Iranian and Iraqi experts' teams and UN secretary general's representatives will meet in New York in early Esfand [month ending 20 March] to prepare for talks on the foreign ministerial level. He also said that in early Farvardin [month ending 20 April], the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers will continue talks on implementing Resolution 598.

On his visit to Oman and on the future of Iran's relations with the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, Mr Velayati said: We have friendly relations with most Arab countries; it is only with Saudi Arabia that Iran severed relations some time ago. Of course, some countries are trying to mediate in some way between the two countries, and they began activities to this effect some time ago.

On the outcome of his visit with British Foreign Secretary Mr Geoffrey Howe in London, he said: The two countries' relations are currently on the charge d'affaires level. On the basis of former agreements, this level will gradually be elevated. This depends on how the two countries' relations develop.

Dr Velayati described the outcome of this visit to Spain and his meetings and discussions with the Spanish officials as positive and fruitful.

Algerian Official Received by Khamene'i
LD1202151489 Algiers Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Algeria is present in Tehran at the festivities marking the 10th anniversary of the Iranian revolution. Mr Mouloud Belkacem, executive secretary of the National Liberation Front Central Committee, who is representing Algeria at these festivities, has been received by Iranian President Ali Khamene'i.

Khamene'i To Visit Yugoslavia 20 Feb
LD1302163389 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 13 IRNA—Iranian President Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i, arrives in Yugoslavia on a three-day visit on February 20 in the first leg of his first European tour.

Khamene'i heads a high ranking delegation which includes Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Economy and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani, say embassy sources in Belgrade. The group also includes several deputy ministers.

Bilateral relations will be discussed during the talks, with the possibility of signing some agreements. Observers here see Khamene'i's arrival as marking a turning point in relations between Iran and Yugoslavia.

During his visit here, the president will visit Sarajevo, capital of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and a well-known center of Islamic art and culture.

Besharati Interviewed on Foreign Policy
LD1102151189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1330 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Report on an interview granted by Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati to an unidentified correspondent; date, place not given; Besharati's remarks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Announcer] Our colleague asked Mr Besharati for his views on the changes and transformations in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past 10 years.

[Besharati] I think that in order to answer this question about 10 years of diplomacy by the Islamic Republic of Iran, we should have a quick look at the diplomacy of the time of the shah. You no doubt agree that the shah's diplomacy was designed and organized by others, especially by the United States, and that the shah and the court cronies were the implementers of those policies. The axis of this diplomacy was Washington, London, and Paris. Other West European countries were regarded as second-rate countries. In the views of the shah's regime other countries had no place in the diplomacy of the time.

It may be useful to give one or two examples. The first point is that today the focus of our diplomacy is directed toward Asian and African countries, those oppressed countries who look to the Islamic Republic and to the Iranian people for the first glimpses of victory, liberation, and struggle against tyranny and oppression, and who regard Iran as their model and guide for breathing the air of freedom. These countries had no place in the shah's diplomacy. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact that we were isolated in our diplomacy, nevertheless, according to the admission of the major powers and countries, alone we succeeded in confronting the active and modern diplomacy of the big countries of the world, although they constantly created a poisonous international atmosphere and international pressure against us. Richard Murphy, U.S. deputy secretary of state, explaining U.S. policy toward the Islamic Republic, said: We engaged in propaganda, negative propaganda, against the Islamic Republic so as to create hatred toward it; we accused Iran of supporting terrorism and violating human rights; in the war we supported Iraq and prevented the victory of the Islamic Republic.

Despite these clear and explicit admissions by the United States, we succeeded in neutralizing that atmosphere, and in removing the black clouds which had been created in our relations with our neighbors and other countries of the world. In any case, despite all these difficulties, both domestic and foreign, we succeeded in adopting an active, strong, and powerful diplomacy.

Today, we are happy that we have a special strategy toward every country. Our relations with our neighboring countries are clear. Our relations with Islamic countries are clear. Our relations with the Third World countries are clear. Our relations with the superpowers are clear.

With happiness and pride we can say that in the course of the 10 years since the victory of the revolution, although until the year 1981 and the appointment of the cabinet of martyr Raja'i and the elimination of Bani-Sadr, and since the time when martyr Raja'i was put in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and since the time when His Excellency Musavi was put in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from that day we can say that we have something in the form of foreign policy [sentence as heard].

Everything is clear and explicit. Today we have more than 100 ambassadors and envoys in various countries of the world. We have unfurled the banner of Islam and the banner of the Islamic Republic of Iran everywhere. We have adopted a new definition for diplomacy and a new direction for our foreign policy, and, in general, for the government we have adopted a clear and explicit policy based on revolutionary Islam.

We are effective in the world. We are initiators and we are the flag bearers of a great liberation movement. We do not hesitate in our support for countries facing oppression. We have never hesitated in clashing with domineering countries. All of this emanates from Islam, the guidance of his holiness the imam, the Constitution, and the views of the esteemed heads of the three [executive, judiciary and legislative] branches.

We, as those in charge of implementing our diplomacy and our foreign policy, can say today that although we have not achieved much in comparison with the enormous self-sacrifices of our people, especially our fighters, nevertheless, we can say that while they fought in the military fields, we fought side-by-side with them on the diplomatic front, defending the blood of the martyrs and the gains of the Islamic revolution.

Larijani Receives Romania's Stefan Andrei
*LD1002220089 Tehran IRNA in English 2012 GMT
10 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Larijani received deputy prime minister of Romania Stefan Andrei here today.

Larijani and the visiting Romanian official reviewed Iran-Romania relations and business, industrial and trade exchanges between the two countries.

Romania has bid for a long-term economic agreement in principle with Iran.

The Romanian official is here on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Official Discusses Relations With Soviet Envoy
*LD1202162489 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb 12 IRNA—The forthcoming visit to Tehran of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was discussed in a meeting between First Deputy foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev here today. "Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran would go a long way towards expansion of ties between the two neighbouring countries," a Foreign Ministry source quoted Gudev as saying at the meeting.

Tehran-Moscow relations are at their best juncture now, replied Besharati, and said the two sides are ready to take necessary steps to further improve them. Important regional and international developments were also reviewed at the meeting.

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov was in Iran on February 4 to exchange views on the Afghan issue and mutual relations between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Iraqi POW's To Be Released 'Next Week'
*LD1302074688 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT
13 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—A group of Iraqi POWs met with members of their families in Tehran's Heshmatiyeh Camp on Sunday. The reunion was arranged on the occasion of the anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran has arranged monthly meetings of the POWs with their relatives.

Iranian officials say they treat Iraqi POWs according to humanitarian and Islamic principles and provide them with all necessary medical and educational facilities. However, they charge that Iranian POWs in Iraqi camps are deprived of such meetings and facilities. The Iraqi regime also refuses to register all Iranian POWs and refrains from providing the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with a complete list of the injured and ill Iranian POWs. According to the Geneva Protocol the list should have been given to the ICRC last fall.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced last week that on the occasion of the anniversary of the revolution, Iran will release 260 injured and disabled Iraqi POWs. A reliable source told IRNA that the Iraqi POWs will go home next week.

Khomeyni Warning to Radio, TV Officials Viewed
*NC1002192889 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
31 Jan 89 p 2*

[Editorial: "Another Difficulty"]

[Text] The imam of the nation's warning to the officials of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran has drawn attention to another significant point. The situation, simply stated, is that an individual, unwittingly or, God forbid, intentionally, violated the sanctity of our Islamic beliefs and what we hold sacred. What makes matters worse is the fact that this should have been broadcast by the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Undoubtedly, the official or officials directly or indirectly involved in the broadcast of this interview should be answerable.

However, the important point which has not so far been discussed is this: In the 10 years that have passed, how far have we been successful in introducing religious personages, prophets and pious imams, and, in particular, Her Holiness Fatimah al-Zahra' (SAW) to the people?

Experience has shown us that serial programs such as "Sarbedaran," "Bu 'Ali Sina," "Kuchek Jangali," "Amir Kabir" and others are and have proved immensely effective in introducing revolutionary, scientific, and political personalities to audiences. We should therefore fully utilize the enormous potential and possibilities of the Voice and Vision and other pertinent organizations

in order to acquaint the people with the great personalities and holy prophets, pious imams, and stalwarts of religion, science, and morals. If this is made a vital element of the agenda, it will also benefit other Muslims.

In conclusion, the warning and indignation of the imam should not cause individuals or factions to begin to settle scores with the Voice and Vision and its officials and to ignore all their efforts and services. Just as the imam's recent letter to the Supreme Judicial Council stated, this sweetness and bitterness stems from the paternal affection and concern of the leader who wants all members of the family to be devoid of faults, objectionable qualities, and flaws, and is right to do so.

3,300 Drug Traffickers Arrested Since 1987

*LD1302161889 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT
13 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Some 3,300 drug traffickers have been arrested and 11 tons of opium, 700 kgs of heroin and 2.3 tons of hashish seized by gendarmerie forces across the country since 1987.

The figures released by the Force Monday [13 February] timed with the on-going unprecedented crackdown of drug trafficking is apparently aimed at emphasizing the seriousness of the problem.

The figure for seizures since 21 March 1979 totals more than 200 tons of opium and 4.8 tons of heroin.

Some 285 gendarmes have been martyred and 49 others wounded in armed clashes with international smugglers since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

A strict anti-drug law went into effect as of January 21 on the basis of which any trafficker caught with more than 30 grams of heroin or five kgs of opium will be sent to the gallows.

One hundred and five notorious smugglers have been hanged publicly and over 60 tons of narcotics has been seized by the Islamic revolution's committees throughout the country since the new law went into effect.

13-Member Smuggling Network Uncovered in Gonbad

*LD1202192589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Feb 89*

[Text] As part of the enforcement of the latest law on narcotics, a 13-member network of narcotics smugglers was discovered in Gonbad and its members were arrested and handed over to the city's judicial authorities. According to the Central News Unit, the network had in their possession 550 grams of heroin, 6 kg of opium, 340,000 rials in cash, a check for 700,000 rials, and 3 motorcycles.

70 To Hang for Drug Offenses 14 Feb

*LD1302160289 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT
13 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Seventy drug traffickers with a long record in smuggling and distribution will be hanged in Tehran and 25 other cities Tuesday. Of the group ten will be hanged in Tehran and others in the provincial capitals of Mashhad, Tabriz, Esfahan, Zahedan, Kerman Yazd, Bakhtaran, Gorgan and Shiraz. The rest will be executed in Karaj, Qom, Damavand, Birjand, Torbat Heydariyeh, Shirvan, Bojnourd, Neyshabour, Sabzevar, Jiroft, Mehran, Nahavand, Gonbad Kavus, Borujerd, Tabas, and Torbat Jam.

The group is believed to be the largest ever to be sent to the gallows in one day for drug offenses. The previous largest figure for drug-related executions was 56 who were hanged on 16 January. According to official figures 105 smugglers have been hanged since 31 December for offenses committed before the enforcement of a new law last month, which is much tougher than any in the past. The law calls for stiff penalties and fines for a wide range of offenses directly or indirectly related to narcotics. It includes the death penalty for carrying 30 grams of heroin, 5 kgs of opium or hashish and for carrying guns or armed resistance against anti-drug squads.

The executions, only part of the nation-wide campaign against the menace that has affected an estimated one million Iranians, stopped for 10 days on 1 February during celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

The campaign also centers on controlling the country's borders, especially in the east, where across the border only in Afghanistan 80 laboratories are believed to be operating in the production of heroin, a large amount of which ends up in Iran.

Iran also signed an anti-smuggling cooperation agreement with Turkey earlier this month.

The gendarmerie forces announced Monday their massive drug haul since 1987 that included 11 tons of opium, 700 kgs of heroin and 2.3 tons of hashish.

However, since 21 January when the new law came into effect, over 60 tons of various kinds of drugs were seized in coordinated operations mainly in eastern, southeastern and central Iran, using at times helicopter gunships.

Communist Party Says Executions Continue

*AU1202214189 Paris AFP in English 2055 GMT
12 Feb 89*

[Text] Paris, Feb 12 (AFP)—Iranian authorities are continuing to execute large numbers of political prisoners despite an amnesty proclaimed last week, the country's outlawed Tudeh communist party charged Sunday.

"The wave of executions is going ahead in the prisons of the Islamic Republic," the party said in a statement sent to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. It accused authorities of forcing prisoners to choose between renouncing their convictions or dying. "Those who do not renounce their political convictions and their revolutionary ideals are inexorably executed," the statement charged.

It warned that while Iran declared an amnesty last week for many political prisoners, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, "hundreds of others belonging to revolutionary and progressive forces" will be put to death by the "criminal regime" in Tehran.

The party appealed to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the human rights group Amnesty International "and all humanitarian forces" to take steps to end the executions.

IRGC To Participate in Reconstruction

LD1002194789 Tehran IRNA in English 1934 GMT
10 Feb 89

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Prov., Feb. 10, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) will powerfully defend Iran by promoting scientific and technical training in the second decade of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Commander Mohsen Rezai said here today.

Rezai here to participate in the Bahman 22 (Feb. 11) rally told IRNA that IRGC will have an active contribution to the country's reconstruction by implementing big projects especially in defensive and strategic fields.

IRGC was formed immediately after the culmination of the Islamic revolution in 1979 and supports the regular Armed Forces as a parallel entity.

IRNA, GNA Sign News Agreement

LD1202093189 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Text] Accra, Feb. 12, IRNA—The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) signed an agreement with the GHANAIA NEWS AGENCY (GNA) on exchange of their news services here Saturday.

The agreement was signed by the head of IRNA, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi who is currently visiting Ghana at the invitation of the Ghanaian Government, and the chief of GNA.

Kharrazi, who is participating in a symposium marking the first decade of Iran's Islamic Revolution, visited various sections of the Ghanaian radio and television where he explained Iran's post-revolutionary experiences in the film industry and new media technology.

Pakistan

Bhutto Denies Sending of Troops to Afghanistan

BK1402034489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that her government has adopted a policy of conciliation and it firmly believes in the politics of consensus and national integrity. Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport on her return from the PRC last night, the prime minister said that the government will strive to strengthen the national integrity so that attention can be paid to solving the people's problems and improving the national economy.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that those wanting to create disturbances and chaos to reap political benefits will not succeed in their designs against the elected government. The supporters of dictatorship have not psychologically accepted their election defeat and they are making a last bid to damage the democratic system.

Ms Benazir Bhutto again expressed her deep anguish over the incident in Islamabad last Sunday and said that, despite limited resources, her government will sympathetically consider what can be done for those affected by the violence.

The prime minister said that there was no justification at all to hold demonstrations as steps had already been taken in this matter. Restrictions have already been imposed on this satanic book. Discussions have already been held in parliament, and everyone agrees about this nasty book. The government is ready to consider any proposal for further steps on this issue.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the elected assembly is the best organization to hold deliberations and resolve issues. Apart from this, there are the Ministries of Religious Affairs and Information to consider issues, and my door is also open for an exchange of views on any proposal. Besides all this, there was no justification for taking onto the streets an issue on which the government took immediate steps after consultation with all sections of society. The prime minister said that no one should put the lives of innocent people at stake and destroy peace and tranquillity for his own political objectives.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that it seems that some people are trying to create chaos and it is the duty of the people to determine the intentions of these elements. The prime minister said that after the results of the investigations of Sunday's incidents in the capital become known, her government will formulate a policy as to how best to deal with the incidents of arson and cases of inciting people to violence, preventing any loss of life or property.

On the allegation by the leader of the Najibullah regime of Kabul that Pakistan has sent troops to Afghanistan, the prime minister said that not a single Pakistani soldier

has gone into Afghanistan. She said that the valiant people of Afghanistan have proved that they will not tolerate any interference, even by a superpower. The situation being so, who are we to interfere in their affairs, the prime minister asked.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that such allegations reveal that the Kabul regime lost confidence in itself due to the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. The prime minister said that we want the Afghan people to decide their own future. Pakistan understands that the Afghanistan Consultative Council meeting may prove helpful for a political settlement of the Afghanistan crisis. Of course, we can use our influence, but we cannot force them. The prime minister said that China will continue to support Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan.

On her trip to the PRC, the prime minister said that she returns home with a feeling of success. The two countries have a complete understanding of views on the various issues that came up for discussion during the talks. She said that the two countries have agreed to enhance economic cooperation, including increased trade through the Karakoram Highway, the promotion of tourism, mineral development, and the establishment of joint ventures in various fields, such as coal-based thermal power plants in Pakistan. The joint ministerial commission of the two countries will meet later this month.

In reply to a question, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that PRC Premier Li Peng has been taken into confidence on the issue of Siachen [with India], and he has been informed of Pakistani Government efforts for a peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement. She said that the Chinese Government and leaders, including senior leader Deng Xiaoping, appreciate our principled stand.

Gandhi Congratulates Bhutto on China Visit
BK1402114689 Islamabad Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, telephoned the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, this morning to congratulate her on her successful visit to China. He also thanked the prime minister for her message of good wishes sent on India's Republic Day and renewed his invitation to the prime minister to visit India. The prime minister thanked Mr Rajiv Gandhi for his call which reflected new spirit of understanding developing between the two countries.

Benazir Bhutto Conducts Official Visit to PRC

For PRC and other media coverage of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's official 3-day visit to the PRC, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 13 February China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bhutto Political 'Honeymoon' Seems Over
BK1402092289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT
14 Feb 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 (AFP)—The honeymoon seems to be over for Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who, less than three months after taking office, is facing a major challenge following nationwide demonstrations by religious and conservative political opponents, analysts said Tuesday.

"Street violence is a dangerous symptom of social malaise," Tuesday's FRONTIER POST newspaper said, while THE NATION newspaper said the incidents give an argument to those who want to see an end to democracy in Pakistan.

Ms Bhutto took office in December after the first party-based elections in Pakistan in 11 years, following the death of military ruler Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a plane crash last August.

Five people were killed Sunday when police opened fire on a crowd that attacked the United States Cultural Centre here after opposition parties called for a demonstration to prevent the U.S. publication of "The Satanic Verses," a novel by the Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie.

Demonstrators Monday took to the streets in Rawalpindi near here, Karachi in the south and Peshawar in the north-west. In Rawalpindi thousands of people paraded, shouting "Down with Benazir" and "Long live Zia".

A former conservative minister under General Zia, Mohammed Junejo, took part in the demonstration.

"Satanic Verses" has been banned in several Moslem countries, including Pakistan, for being anti-Islamic but won wide acclaim in Britain after its 1988 publication there, which drew no protests from Pakistani Moslem fundamentalists at the time.

Diplomats here said that religious conservatives had used the planned republication of the book in the U.S., a behind-the-scenes backer of Ms Bhutto, to kindle anti-liberal sentiment and as a stick to beat the prime minister.

On returning Tuesday from a three-day official visit to China, Ms Bhutto herself called the protests an attempt to destabilize her government, not an expression of anti-U.S. feelings.

Although she agreed that "Satanic Verses" was anti-Islamic, "the question that perturbs us most is whether it was used as a pretext to destabilize the process of democracy," she said.

She noted that "not a single page is published and people do not even know what is published in Pakistan written". The writer has

Ms Bhutto described the Sunday demonstration as a ditch effort by those who did not like the new government.

"Other countries who had a transition to democracy have also experienced that the dying order gives a few kicks to the new system before settling down," Ms Bhutto said, citing the example of the Philippines, where a popular revolt ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos and installed President Corazon Aquino in 1986.

The FRONTIER POST said that: "Political parties only contact the masses when they want their votes and thereafter stay as far away from them as possible, coming to them only when the leader wishes, for some purpose of his own."

Ms Bhutto's government, which suffered defeat in by-elections in January, foundered more and more on grounds of religious immorality.

A relatively tame pop-music show was on the television after provoking a storm recently taken off by conservative religious leaders.

Airlift of Food for Afghanistan Begins
BK1002144989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The United Nations has begun supply food items to the people inside the operation to first flight carrying 26 metric tons of wheat to Afghanistan. The Quetta for Kabul today. The UN coordinator took off from Italy and economic assistance coordinator for Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, to Afghanistan airport to supervise the operation. He was present at the

The World Food Program, an affiliate of the United Nations, plans to airlift 600 metric tons of wheat, 45 tonnes of cooking oil, 45 tonnes of sugar, 90 tons of milk powder to Kabul. The airlift, and 36 metric tons will be completed by 24 flights in about 10 days. Afghanistan is now facing a serious shortage of foodstuffs and medicines due to a civil war.

Iranian President Regrets Mujahidin Differences
LD1302152988 Tehran IRNA in English
13 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 13, IRNA—President Khamene'i in a message to his Pakistani counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i expressed regret on differences between the Afghan mujahidin which have postponed a vital meeting of a consultative council.

He said it was regrettable that some within the Afghan resistance movement were "questioning" the validity of an agreement reached with Iran-based mujahidin on their share of seats in the council, or shura, that will decide on an interim government.

"The recent agreement between the leader of the seven-party mujahidin alliance and the eight-party coalition was a hopeful opening in the hearts of the Afghan people for the crucial days ahead," the message said.

The message was handed by Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri Monday.

Leaders of the two alliances have been holding marathon sessions in the Pakistan capital in the past two days to find a compromise solution to how many seats each side would be control in the shura.

The Tehran agreement inked by Sibghatullah Mojaddedi representing the Pakistan-based majority Sunni alliance pledged the Shi'a Iran-based mujahidin 100 seats in the 500-plus council.

Mo'ayeri met with the various mujahidin leaders Sunday and Monday calling on all sides to respect the agreement.

President Khamene'i's message also called on Pakistan to cooperate with Iran to help the Afghan people after the Soviet Union pulls out its last troops on 15 February.

"The withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the recent positive developments would have a direct impact on Afghanistan's two neighbors, Iran and Pakistan," Khamene'i wrote.

"Thus cooperation between our two countries to help this oppressed nation would please God and make the Afghan people happy."

Shoulder-Fired Missile Produced, Delivered
BK1402112989 Islamabad Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Pakistan has made another breakthrough in the field of defense production with the handing over to the chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, the first consignment of the shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles and the laser range finders at a ceremony in Rawalpindi this morning. The consignment was handed over by Dr A.Q. Khan.

The shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile has been named as Anza, meaning striking lance, used by Hazrat Zubair Raziullah Anhu [one of the prophets of Islam] in the battles of Badr, Uhud, and Khyber and subsequently by the holy Prophet, peace be upon him, in several holy wars. The Anza has a range of 50 meters to 5,000 meters and the laser range finder has a range of 150 meters to 51,000 meters.

Oil Transporters Strike Spreads to Other Areas

Minister Begins Talks

BK1302162389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT
13 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Feb 13 (AFP)—Fuel shortages brought traffic to a virtual standstill here Monday as Pakistani Oil Minister Jehangir Badar was holding negotiations in Islamabad with striking tanker drivers.

Officials said the talks were aimed at averting a crisis with fuel shortages being reported in Islamabad and Lahore as hundreds of private tanker drivers continued a three-day-old strike to protest highway robberies and a shrinking share in the business.

A spokesman for the All Pakistan Oil Tanker Owners Association said the strike would continue until the federal government agreed to increase transport charges and provide protection from bandits prevalent along highways in Pakistan's southern Sind Province.

Long queues of motorists could be seen outside the few petrol stations with supplies, many having closed since Sunday as consumers stocked up amid fears of rationing.

The Karachi administration used state-owned tankers in a bid to keep the petrol stations supplied, although strikers foiled an attempt on Sunday to use government tankers to bring supplies into the city.

Police escorts were deployed to protect the few private tankers still operating.

Officials said supplies of meat and vegetables to the city had been affected by the strike.

Gas Stations Go Dry

BK1302123989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1839 GMT
12 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Feb 12 (AFP)—A tanker strike which began here Saturday [11 February] has now spread to other parts of the country, leaving many gas stations dry as consumers stock up amid rationing fears, official sources said Sunday.

Hundreds of private tanker owners launched a strike in this port city on Saturday to protest highway robberies and a shrinking share in the business, the sources said.

The government was negotiating with private tanker association to end the strike, they said.

Attempts to ferry oil in government-owned tankers were foiled by striking tanker owners, a spokesman for the private operators said, adding that the nationwide strike would continue "as long the demands were not accepted."

Many gas stations here are closed and there are long lines at those stations which still have supplies.

Minister on Steps To Protect Prominent Figures

BK1002161389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The federal interior minister, Mr Aitzaz Ahsan, has said that the government intends to take effective steps to protect the prime minister and other prominent figures and the government's important buildings and other installations.

Commenting on the incident which took place in the National Assembly building in Islamabad yesterday [in which a man was arrested carrying a weapon in the National Assembly hall], he told a Radio Pakistan's representative in Lahore this evening that carrying of arms and explosives into the parliament building is a grave matter, and the government would not consider it as an ordinary affair. The minister added that investigations into the incident are continuing.

'Satanic Verses' Publishers Asked To Apologize

BK1302154489 Islamabad Domestic Service
in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has asked the publishers of the abominable book "Satanic Verses" to withdraw all copies of this filthy book from the market, destroy them, and tender a public apology. The publishers have been warned that in the event of their failure to do so, their company will be blacklisted and its products banned in Pakistan.

In addition, the Government of Pakistan has contacted the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general to raise the issue of the publication of this book at the international level so as to express Pakistan's solidarity with the Islamic community and the Pakistani people's resentment and indignation over this incident. It may be recalled that the Government of Pakistan had learned about the publication of the filthy book "Satanic Verses" last October and had banned it immediately.

Sri Lanka

Preparations Under Way for Elections 15 Feb

Parties Fear Violence

BK1302140489 Hong Kong AFP in English
1351 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 13 (AFP)—Political parties have expressed fears of violence and a low turnout in Wednesday's parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka, a group of foreign observers said here Monday.

The 18-member group, here at the invitation of Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva, said the primary concern of parties and independent groups was the continuing violence plaguing the run-up to the poll.

"The level of violence is still very high. The number of people killed since the (December 19) presidential election is in multiples of 100," spokesman for the group and former Bangladesh Foreign Minister Kamal Hussain said.

The other members of the observer group come from Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Britain, Egypt, India, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines. They have already met representatives of parties and independent groups.

Mr. Hussain said the election itself was under challenge with "some parties" openly against the polls and with threats that "those who vote do so at their own peril."

The run-up to the general election, the first in 11 years, has been plagued by unprecedented violence. According to official figures, 14 candidates have been assassinated since nominations closed early last month.

"Parties fears that the climate of fear will deter people from voting... This was one of the concerns at the last election and the concern continues (for this election)," Mr. Hussain said.

Mr. Hussain headed a 10-member observer group that supervised the presidential election, which was marred by a low voter turnout and violence which left at least 30 people dead during balloting.

"The presidential election, held in the most difficult conditions, reflected the determination of the people of Sri Lanka to preserve their democratic institutions in the face of intimidation and violence of unprecedented dimensions," he said.

The latest observer team will form into nine small groups and visit at least 18 out of 22 electoral districts in the island republic.

The anti-government Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) and the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have vowed to sabotage the election.

Rebels Declare 2-Day 'Curfew'
BK1402054289 Hong Kong AFP in English
0531 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (AFP)—Anti-government Sinhalese rebels declared a two-day "curfew" and threatened death to violators ahead of Wednesday's parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka, officials and residents said Tuesday.

The militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) put up posters in southern towns and the central region, ordering shops to close and people to stay indoors and refrain from balloting, residents said.

Officials said police and the military were using loud hailers to ask shops to open in central Kandy region, but most streets were deserted.

Suspected JVP activists bombed two buses near here early Tuesday, a military official here said. There was no immediate report of casualties.

"The JVP plan is to sabotage the election. So they will step up attacks on buses and shops that ignore their orders," an official here said, adding that security forces had been placed on maximum alert.

The militant group, which draws its support from the majority Sinhalese community which dominates the island's south and most other provinces, has vowed to disrupt the polls, accusing all candidates of being "puppets" of India.

The JVP is opposed to the presence of some 45,000-50,000 Indian troops in the island's Northern and Eastern provinces in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

Residents in southern Matara Town, a hotbed of JVP activity, said shops and offices were shut Tuesday in apparent response to the rebel call and there was no transport to nearby villages.

A few shops were also closed in the capital and its outskirts.

The JVP proclaimed similar curfews to coincide with the December 19 presidential election, which was marred by a low voter turn out and violence which left at least 30 people dead on the day of balloting.

Some 9.43 million people are eligible to vote Wednesday in the general elections, the first in 11 years. Polling will be conducted by 80,000 public servants at 8,070 polling stations spread across the island.

Sri Lanka's less than 30,000 police force will be backed for election duty by security forces as well as the Indian troops, who have been waging a bloody military campaign against Tamil rebels since October 1987.

The run up to the election has been plagued with violence which officials have blamed mostly on JVP and Tamil separatist guerrillas.

The dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is also opposed to the election and has ordered transport to go off the streets for three days from Monday in the island's northern Tamil regions.

According to officials, the JVP and LTTE have killed 14 candidates since nominations closed early last month. Hundreds of campaign workers and political activists have also been murdered during the same period.

Security Forces on 'Red Alert'

BK1402090689 Hong Kong AFP in English
0846 GMT 14 Feb 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan and Indian Security Forces went on red alert Tuesday after rebels declared a curfew in a bid to disrupt Wednesday's general elections, the first in 11 years in this troubled Indian Ocean island.

Anti-government Sinhalese rebels imposed a two-day "curfew" and threatened to kill violators as thousands of officials fanned out to remote provinces to conduct the polling, officials here said.

Armed soldiers were patrolling streets of several cities and towns, officials here said, while the Defence Ministry asked Sri Lankans not to set off firecrackers for the next 72 hours. The government asked all liquor shops and bars to close until Thursday.

A bloody run-up to the election has already claimed hundreds of lives.

Most attacks have been blamed on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE is the most powerful of six major Tamil rebel groups while the JVP derives support from the island's majority Sinhalese population. Both oppose a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact that sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign by installing Indian troops in the north and east.

The JVP has put up posters in dozens of southern and central towns calling for shops to close and for people to keep away from polling stations. In Tamil regions, the LTTE has ordered buses off the streets for three days, residents said.

Sri Lanka's less than 30,000-member police force, backed by 40,000 defence personnel, have been put on "maximum vigil" to protect 8,070 polling stations and the 80,000 public servants who will man them, a military official said.

He said the 45,000-50,000 Indian troops in the Tamil-populated Northern and Eastern Provinces would guard election booths and officials from the LTTE.

A total of 1,396 candidates from 19 political parties and independent groups are seeking spots in the 225-seat parliament. There are some 9.43 million voters.

The LTTE has already killed two candidates while the JVP has been blamed for killing 12 others.

Most of the slain candidates are from the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). The ruling United National Party (UNP) has also lost scores of officials and supporters.

The JVP has accused candidates of being "puppets" of India.

Suspected JVP activists bombed four buses early Tuesday, killing at least three passengers and a driver and wounding many others, the military official said.

Two buses were attacked near the capital while two more were fired on in central Badulla and Embilipitiya towns.

"The JVP plan is to sabotage the election. So they will step up attacks on buses and shops that ignore their orders," an official here said.

Clashes were reported from Tamil areas, where Indian troops had to intervene several times to prevent killings by rival militant groups, Tamil sources here said.

Sri Lankan troops have resumed escorting fuel and freight trains and guarding vulnerable government installations, officials said. The measure had been discontinued after the December 19 presidential elections.

Residents in southern Matara Town, a JVP stronghold, said shops and offices were shut Tuesday in apparent response to the rebel call. Government and private buses were not seen on the roads.

The country's major wholesale markets in the capital closed Tuesday, causing smaller markets around the island to also close, residents said.

The JVP applied similar curfews prior to the presidential polls, which were marred by a low voter turn out and violence which left at least 30 people dead on voting day.

A group of foreign observers here to monitor the election said Monday that political parties had expressed fear that continuing violence would affect voter turn out.

Security Arrangements Made

*BK1402102189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Feb 89*

[Text] Sri Lanka goes to the polls tomorrow to elect a 225-member Parliament amidst unprecedented security in the face of threats by Sinhalese and Tamil extremists to disrupt the polling. The Sri Lankan Government has put thousands of troops and police on the alert to maintain law and order.

The election commissioner, Mr R.K. de Silva, said arrangements for the first parliamentary elections in 11 years are near complete with 80,000 polling staff moving to over 8,000 polling stations. These are spread over 22 electoral districts. Nearly 9 million voters are eligible to exercise their franchise being held under the new proportional representation system.

Our correspondent reports from Jaffna that poll cards have already been distributed to the voters in the north-east province and all is set to elect 31 representatives from there. The PKF [Peace-Keeping Force] has made all security arrangements for peaceful polling.

Meanwhile, all political parties participating in the election have called upon the people to desist from violence.

EPRLF Welcomes Karunanidhi Tamil Initiative

*BK1402103389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0906 GMT 14 Feb 89*

[“OANA/pool” Item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which heads the provincial government in the united Northern and Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, Monday expressed happiness over South Indian Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi's recent announcement that he would attempt to bring about a rapprochement between all Tamil militant groups, states a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) dispatch from Madras received by LANKAPUVATH.

T. Valavan, EPRLF's representative in Madras, reiterated the EPRLF's appeal to the dominant militant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to give up its armed struggle and join the provincial government. He also expressed happiness over Karunanidhi's remarks that he would hold talks with Varadaraja Perumal, the chief minister of the provincial government in the island, to bring about permanent peace in the Tamil province.

Valavan said the EPRLF could not accept the view that the LTTE was the sole representative of Tamils in the north and east. The large turnout of people to vote in the recently concluded provincial elections defying the LTTE's boycott call proved that such a statement was “meaningless,” he said.

The EPRLF's stand, from the beginning, had been that all groups should be given equal status and representation in all negotiations connected with the Tamil problem, he said, adding that it was the LTTE which wanted the other groups to be kept away from the interim administration when it was formed in 1987.

He said the invitation for the LTTE to join the provincial government was open and the EPRLF had no hesitation in negotiating with the LTTE.

Valavan condemned Sunday's massacre of innocent Sinhala and Muslim people in Anuradhapura and Amparai districts in Sri Lanka allegedly by LTTE men and said it was a ploy to scare away the people from participating in the forthcoming parliament elections there.

Grenades Explode at 2 Ruling Party Meetings

*BK1302050689 Hong Kong AFP in English
0458 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 13 (AFP)—Grenade blasts ripped through at least two ruling party meetings, wounding dozens of people in continuing political violence in strife-torn Sri Lanka, officials said Monday [13 February].

The attacks at Piliyandala and Gothatuwa came as campaigning for Wednesday's parliamentary poll ended at midnight (1830 GMT) Sunday, officials said.

They said that more than 30 people were admitted to hospital, and scores of others were injured in crowd stampedes.

No one claimed responsibility for the two grenade attacks, but similar attacks in the past have been blamed on the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front). [passage omitted]

JVP Military Wing Said Involved in Temple Attack

*BK1302111289 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 13 Feb 89*

[Text] A number of suspects described as members of the Deshapremaya Viyaparaya [military wing of JVP], who were allegedly responsible for the attack on the security post at Sri Dalada Maligawa [Temple of Tooth Relic in Kandy] on February 9th [date as heard], were arrested by a team of policemen led by deputy inspector general of police, Amarasinghe Rajapaksha. A senior police official told LANKAPUVATH that immediately following the arrests, President R. Premadasa, accompanied by senior security officials flew by helicopter to Kandy and held a top-level conference. One of the subversives killed on the attack on Sri Dalada Maligawa was a clerk in a Kandy mercantile firm. Two persons were killed and four others injured in the subversive attack on the Maligawa. Four of the attackers were apprehended by the soldiers in the Maligawa guard room, and they are being questioned.

LTTE Denies Involvement in Village 'Massacre'
BK1202121889 Hong Kong AFP in English
1209 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 12 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group Sunday denied involvement in the massacre of 40 Sinhalese and Moslem civilians and said it suspected "Indian-backed" Tamil groups were behind the killings.

A police spokesman here said about 50 gunmen believed to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) stormed a Sinhalese village in north central Anuradhapura District Sunday and butchered 34 people, including 20 children and five women.

In a simultaneous attack, LTTE activists gunned down six Moslems in neighbouring eastern Ampara District, the spokesman said.

The LTTE responded quickly with a denial from its office in London condemning the massacre as an "act of terrorism on civilian targets."

"This is a calculated attempt to tarnish the image of the LTTE specially at a time when the LTTE has appealed to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to intervene to bring a political solution to the conflict.

"We suspect strongly the Indian-backed Three Star Group for the attack on Sinhalese and Sinhalese extremist groups for killings in Ampara," the LTTE statement released here said.

The LTTE is openly opposed to Sinhalese of the majority community and minority Moslems living in areas bordering Tamil-dominated northern and eastern regions.

"It (the latest attack) looks very much like the earlier LTTE attacks. There is no need for anyone else to attack Sinhalese and Moslems except the Tigers," the police spokesman here said.

The LTTE has rejected a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka ethnic peace pact and is fighting Indian troops deployed in Tamil areas to supervise the peace deal which sought to end the bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

LTTE 'Terrorists' Kill 30 Sinhalese Villagers
BK1202114189 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Thirty Sinhalese in the farming village of Dutuwewa in the Korupugama police area were massacred by LTTE terrorists late last night and their homes set on fire. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the villagers—men, women and children—were fast asleep at 2130 hours [1600 GMT] last night when the terrorist killers armed with automatic weapons stormed into the farmers' cottages and massacred them.

A massive cordon and search operation had been launched by the security forces to apprehend the killer gang of LTTE terrorists.